IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR ACCURATE DETERMINATION OF TOOTH COLOR

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Introduction: Selection of ideal tooth shade when making dental restorations is essential for patient satisfaction. This avoids inconveniences such as corrections or re- making the same construction over again. According to statistical research, rejection of the chosen tooth color by the patient is one of the reasons for failures in prosthetic therapy.
Aim: The aim of our study was to determine whether the correct and precise selection of tooth color depends on the different level of education, training and the knowledge of the used methods.
Material and method: This study involved 60 students of dentistry at the University of Goce Delchev - Shtip , including 30 students from 4 th and 5th year of study respectively. All subjects were tested by using the Ishihara color vision test for color blindness, to exclude the errors. Then we formed two study groups randomly selected with equal number of students from both generations. The first group was a working group which went through an extensive three-week training, exercises and tests for shade matching, while the other group was control group. Finally, all of them were tested by using a special program Tooth Guide Trainer - Final Exam. Maximum possible points on the test were 1000 with a passing limit of 600 points. The results were statistically processed.
Results: Working group showed a significant difference in precise determination of tooth shade in relation to the control group ($p > 0.05$), but in terms of different sex (male vs. female) there was no difference.
Conclusion: The survey concluded that vocational training has a major impact on the selection and assessment of tooth color. This would give us predictable results in the development of definitive prosthetic constructions.

Key words: tooth color, training, shade matching