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<u>TOP</u> > <u>Available Issues</u> > <u>Table of Contents</u> > Abstract	

PRINT ISSN: 0040-8891

The Bulletin of Tokyo Dental College

Vol. 48 (2007), No. 2:57-66

[PDF (348K)] [References]

Pressure on Anterior Region of Palate during Thumb-Sucking

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(Received January 29, 2007) (Accepted May 25, 2007)

Abstract: Measurement of the pressure applied to the anterior region of the palate and incisor region of the mandible during thumb-sucking was carried out 3 female children. A polyethylene bag embedded with a high-sensitivity small pressure sensor was fixed on the ventral side of the thumb so that the baroreceptor could be interposed between the thumb and palate during thumb-sucking. The children were allowed to perform habitual thumb-sucking, and the resulting pressure signals were detected with a high-response dynamic strainmeter and recorded. Measured peak pressures were about 2-4.5kgw, with large individual variation, and waveform patterns also varied. Characteristics of thumb-sucking habits and thumb-sucking pressure were related to malocclusion. Measurement of thumb-sucking pressure is believed to be effective for assessment of the qualitative relationship between thumb-sucking and malocclusion.

Key words: Oral habit, Finger-sucking, Thumb-sucking, Pressure, Pressure sensor

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To cite this article:

Reiko Yokota, Masayoshi Mishiro, Terumi Abe, Akiko Miyake, Nene Shiina, Kenji Sueishi and Hideharu Yamaguchi: "Pressure on Anterior Region of Palate during Thumb-Sucking". The Bulletin of Tokyo Dental College, Vol. **48**: 57-66 (2007).

doi: 10.2209/td c publication. 48.57

JOI JST.JSTAGE/tdcpublication/48.57

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