

# An Overview of Frequency Malocclusion in Cases of Down Syndrome Children: A Systematic Review

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## ABSTRACT

**Background:** Malocclusion is one of the important problems in the field of dental and oral health in Indonesia. Dental and oral health in children is an important factor that must be considered as early as possible. Therefore, knowledge of children, especially knowledge of malocclusion, must be considered more because if a children experiences malocclusion it can affect tooth grow that a laterage. Down Syndrome is a chromosomal disorder that results in mental retardation. Mental retardation is a worldwide problem with major implications, especially for developing countries. It is estimated that the incidence of severe mental retardation is about 0.3% of the total population, and nearly 3% have an IQ below 70%. As human resources, of course they cannot be utilized, because 0.1% of these children need care, guidance and supervision throughout their living. **Objective:** To review the frequency of malocclusion in Down Syndrome children. **Methods:** Scientific evidence and clinical cases were drawn from the literature to support this review and information on the frequency of malocclusion in children with Down Syndrome was collected. **Result/Discussion:** There are several types of malocclusion that often occur in children with Down Syndrome. Some of them are associated with class III Angle malocclusion, crowding, and anterior open bite. **Conclusion:** Down Syndrome is one of the most studied genetic syndromes because of its frequency in our population and its medical significance. Malocclusion was observed in 92% of subjects with Down syndrome. The incidence of malocclusion is higher in children/adolescents with Down Syndrome than in individuals without the syndrome. Class III malocclusion is most frequently observed.

**Keywords:** Malocclusion, Down Syndrome, Angle's Malocclusion

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Malocclusion is one of the important problems in the field of dental and oral health in Indonesia. Dental and oral health in children is an important factor that must be considered as early as possible. Therefore, knowledge of children, especially knowledge of malocclusion, must be considered more because if a child experiences malocclusion it can affect tooth grow that a later age. Malocclusion is a condition that deviates from normal occlusion including irregularity of the teeth in the arch of the jaw, such as crowding, protrusion, malposition or an unharmonious relationship with the antagonistic teeth. and mandibular teeth.<sup>1,2</sup>

The occurrence of malocclusion is very much influenced by heredity inherited from parents and environmental factors such as bad habits and diet. Usually these two factors manifest as an imbalance in the growth and development of the dental facial structures resulting in malocclusion. The influence of these factors can directly or indirectly lead to malocclusion. Heredity has a major influence on malocclusion, for example the size, shape, and number of teeth that grow out of line with the arch of the jaw, causing crowding of teeth. Children still have physical and psychological limitations, in accordance with ongoing growth and development. It is not uncommon for children who are in their infancy, have problems with their teeth. Malocclusion is common at ages 9-12 years, this is the second phase of the mixed tooth period. During this period there was a change in dimensions from primary teeth to permanent teeth which caused many problems. Occlusion sometimes becomes unsuitable, resulting in overcrowded teeth, cross bites, open bites, deep bites, and permanent tooth loss due to caries.<sup>3</sup>

Down Syndrome is a chromosomal disorder that results in mental retardation. Mental retardation is a worldwide problem with major implications, especially for developing countries. It is estimated that the incidence of severe mental retardation is about 0.3% of the total population, and nearly 3% have an IQ below 70%. As human resources, of course they cannot be utilized, because 0.1% of these children need care, guidance and supervision throughout their living. The frequency of Down syndrome increases with increasing age of the mother. While the disorder occurred in only 0.04% (4 in 10,000 births) of children born to women under 30 years of age, the risk rose to 0.92% (92 out of 10,000) for mothers aged 40 and even higher for older mothers. Down syndrome's correlation with maternal age has not been explained.<sup>4</sup>

Down syndrome was first described by a doctor from England named Langdon Down in 1866.<sup>1,2</sup> This syndrome is caused by a congenital anomaly of autosomal chromosomes (non-sex chromosome) on chromosome 21.<sup>1-3</sup> Down syndrome is a chromosomal disorder at birth that is quite common in the world. WHO reports, the estimated incidence is between 1 in 1,000 to 1 in 1,100 births. There are currently 8 million sufferers in the world. Each year an estimated 3,000 to 5,000 children are born with Down syndrome and there are about 250,000 families in the United States where one member of the family has this syndrome.<sup>3</sup> The latest data from the Basic Health Research (2013) states that until now there have been 300,000 cases of children with Down Syndrome in Indonesia.<sup>5</sup>

## 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Scientific evidence and clinical cases were drawn from the literature to support this review and information on the frequency of malocclusion in Down Syndrome children was collected.

### LITERATURE SEARCH

A systematic review of the literature was carried out looking for all published articles on the relationship of dental conditions to the incidence of stunting in children. On December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020, a literature search was carried out using the following keywords: "*Malocclusion in children, Down syndrome, Malocclusion and Down syndrome, Dental and oral health for children with Down syndrome.*" The following databases were searched: PubMed and Google Scholar.

### 3. DISCUSSION

#### 1. Definition of Malocclusion

There are various diseases and disorders that affect tooth function, one of which is malocclusion. Malocclusion is a form of occlusion that deviates from the standard form that is accepted as a normal form. Malocclusion is also a condition that deviates from normal occlusion including irregularity of the teeth in the arch of the jaw, such as overcrowded, protrusive, malposition or disharmonious relationships with the antagonist teeth. Occlusion is said to be normal if the teeth are arranged in an orderly arch and there is a harmonious relationship between the maxillary and mandibular teeth.<sup>3,6</sup>

#### 2. Etiology of Malocclusion

Kusyola Constanty also explains the causes of tooth deformities in children, which are as follows:

##### a. Bad habits

A habit is a certain action that is repeated over and over again, while oral habit is a habit that can cause changes in occlusal relationships such as sucking and biting the lips, pushing the jaw forward, pushing the tongue, or biting nails.

##### b. Genetics

For example, mothers who have small teeth and fathers who have large jaws, tend to have children with small jaws and large teeth, automatically causing the teeth to crowd.

##### c. Trauma

Hard impact on the mouth and injuring the jaw and teeth is also a cause of malocclusion. Environmental factors that can cause malocclusion include disease, nutritional status, and oral habits.<sup>7</sup>

#### 3. Definition of Down Syndrome

Understanding Down Syndrome, syndrome is defined as a symptom or sign that appears together (Alwi, 2002:1069). Meanwhile, the word down used in this case is a term taken from doctor from England, namely John Langdon Down. Kosasih (2012:79) states that Down syndrome is a condition of underdevelopment in the physical and mental development of children caused by abnormalities in chromosomal development. Chromosomes are special fibers that are present in every cell in the human body, where there is genetic material that determines a person's characteristics. Wiyani (2014: 113-114) complements the explanation that Down syndrome occurs because of an abnormality in the 21<sup>st</sup> chromosome arrangement of 23 human chromosomes. In normal humans, 23 chromosomes pair up to 46. In people with Down syndrome, the number 21 chromosome is three (trisomy), bringing the total to 47 chromosomes. This excessive amount results in shocks in the cellular metabolic system, which eventually leads to Down syndrome.<sup>8</sup>

#### 4. Epidemiology of Down Syndrome

Epidemiology is the study of the patterns and causes of health-related traits in a given population. The results of these studies form the basis for interventional treatment. For Down syndrome (DS), such epidemiological studies began in the mid-1800s when several physicians described a group of patients, who had mental retardation and short stature along with certain facial characteristics, including slanted eyes, epicanth folds, flat nose bridges, and protruding tongue. J. Langdon Down, for whom Down syndrome is named, makes a significant contribution to the epidemiology of the syndrome by emphasizing that this set of clinical findings is a distinct entity, and that affected individuals can be distinguished from a

heterogeneous group of all persons with intellectual disabilities. In an excellent review of Down syndrome's history, Rynders and Pueschel continued the story of Down syndrome's recognition in to the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Now, Down syndrome or trisomy 21 is one of the most studied human aneuploid conditions. This review will focus on the current literature relating to two distinct, but related, epidemiological fields of Down syndrome. First, we will review the prevalence of Down syndrome and its associated risk factors. We will focus on meiotic nondisjunction of chromosome 21, the most common cause of Down syndrome. Second, we will review studies on the prevalence of birth defects and abnormalities associated with Down syndrome. As each topic deserves an entire journal, we will concentrate on a few exemplary studies to illustrate the progress made in the field and to outline a potential genetic epidemiological study design capable of uncovering the biological mechanisms underlying chromosome 21 nondisjunction and its clinical consequences.<sup>9</sup>

## 5. Malocclusion in Down Syndrome Children

**Table 1.** Malocclusion in Down Syndrome children by some research

No.	Author and Titles	Year	Result and Conclusion
1.	<p>Siti Salmiah, Nurul Sukma Mustafa</p> <p>Description of Malocclusion and Bad Habits of 6-18 Years of Down Syndrome Patients in Medan City.</p> <p>Journal: Dentika Dental Journal, Vol 19, No. 1, 2016: 42-46</p>	2016	<p><b>Result:</b></p> <p>The results of this study found that the prevalence of malocclusion based on Angle's classification in Down syndrome children aged 6-18 years in special schools in Medan City was 31.71% of the children had Class I molar relationships, 3.66% Class II, and 48.78% Class III. The most common forms of malocclusion were anterior crossbites, namely 42.68%, followed by crowding 39.02%, anterior open bites 23.17%, and posterior crossbites 21.95%. The highest bad habits were tongue thrusting, namely 41.46%, mouth breathing 40.24%, bruxism 37.8%, finger sucking 36.58%, and nail or finger biting 21.95%.</p> <p><b>Conclusion:</b></p> <p>The prevalence of malocclusion and bad habits in Down syndrome children is quite high. This needs to be a concern of parents/guardians/caregivers to minimize these bad habits so that children's chewing and phonetic function can be optimal. This study shows that the high prevalence of these bad habits leads to a high prevalence of malocclusion in people with Down syndrome.</p>
2.	Bauer Danielle, et al.	2012	<p><b>Result:</b></p> <p>The Down Syndrome (DS) group had</p>

	<p>Severity of Occlusal Disharmonies in Down Syndrome</p> <p>Journal : International Journal of Dentistry Volume 2012, Article ID 872367, 6 pages</p>		<p>significantly higher PAR and ICON scores, as well as 10 times more teeth were lost than in the non-Down syndrome group. The Down syndrome group was predominantly Class III malocclusion, with the presence of both anterior and posterior crossbites in the majority of patients. The non-Down syndrome group mostly experienced Class I or II malocclusion with missing teeth and fewer crossbites. The Down syndrome group also had more severe malocclusion based on occlusal traits such as open bite and malocclusion types.</p> <p>Conclusion: The Down syndrome group had very severe malocclusion, while the control group from the university clinic had more severe malocclusion than the control group from private practice.</p>
3.	<p>Victor Paulo, et al.</p> <p>Malocclusion in children and adolescents with Down syndrome: A systematic review and meta-analysis</p> <p>Journal: Int J Paediatr Dent. 2019 Jul;29(4):524-541.</p>	20 19	<p>Result: Eleven publications were included in the systematic review and eight were meta-analyzed. Meta-analysis showed that malocclusion was more prevalent in children/adolescents with Down syndrome for Class III Angle malocclusion (risk difference [RD]=0.40; confidence interval [CI]=0.33, 0.46), posterior crossbites (risk ratio [RR]=3.09; CI=2.02, 4.73), anterior crossbite (RR=2.18; CI=1.41, 3.39), and anterior open bite (RD = 0.21; CI = 0.06, 0.36).</p> <p>Conclusion: The incidence of malocclusion is higher in children/adolescents with Down syndrome than in individuals without the syndrome. The strength of the evidence from the analyzed studies, however, is considered moderate and low.</p>
4.	<p>Mestrovic Senka, et al.</p> <p>Prevalence of Malocclusion in Patients with Down's Syndrome</p>	20 02	<p>Result: Malocclusion was found in 92% of subjects. Class III malocclusion was observed most frequently (43.8%). Unilateral crowding and crossbite were found in 15% of subjects. Bilateral crossbites were found in 5.4% of subjects. Premature tooth loss was observed in only 1%</p>

	<p>Journal: Acta Stomatol Croat, Vol. 36, br. 2, 2002.</p>		<p>of subjects whereas Class II division 2 malocclusion was not recorded in the examined subjects.</p> <p>Conclusion:                  Malocclusion was observed in 92% of subjects with Down syndrome. Class III malocclusion was most frequently observed, namely in 43.8% of cases. Unilateral crowding and crossbite were found in 15% of subjects. Bilateral crossbites were found in 5.4% of subjects. Premature tooth loss was observed in only 1% of subjects.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Marques Leandro Silva, et al.</p> <p>Down syndrome: a risk factor for malocclusion severity?</p> <p>Journal : Braz Oral Res [online]. 2015;29(1):1-7</p>	<p>20 15</p>	<p>Result:                  As shown in Table 1, individual the control group had a greater incidence of diastema (<math>\geq 2</math> mm) and overjet (<math>\geq 4</math> mm). Differences were also found with respect to face type and Angle classification between the two groups. The short face pattern and Class III Angle malocclusion were more frequent among individuals with Down syndrome, whereas the long face pattern and Class II Angle malocclusion were more frequent among individuals in the control group (Table 1). Malocclusion severity was greater among individuals with Down syndrome compared with those in the control group (<math>p=0.028</math>). Taking into account individual, social, and behavioral factors, there was a greater frequency of severe malocclusion among individuals aged <math>&gt;10</math> years and among those with a history of preterm birth, lip disability, mouth breathing pattern, and facial pattern length (Table 2).</p> <p>Conclusion:                  Vertical and transverse changes in occlusion, such as mandibular protrusions, anterior open bites, and posterior crossbites were significantly more frequent among individuals with Down syndrome than in the control group. Related determinant factors for the severity of the malocclusion was Down syndrome, history of premature birth, and long facial patterns.</p>

Based on the results of the studies included in this review it seems that there is a relationship between the state of the teeth and the incidence of stunting in children. This seems to be shown in the results of other studies by Siti Salmiah and Nurul Sukma Mustafa in 2016. In this study, the malocclusion to be studied includes malocclusion of molar relationships based on Angle's classification and various general forms that can be observed clinically such as anterior and posterior crossbites, bites, anterior opening, and crowding, and the types of bad habits commonly experienced by children such as mouth breathing, tongue thrusting, nail or finger biting, fingersucking, and bruxism. The most common form of malocclusion in Down's syndrome children after anterior crossbite was crowding, which was 39.02%. These results are consistent with the results of research conducted by Mestrovic et al. which places crowding as the second highest form of malocclusion in Down's syndrome children.<sup>10</sup>

The same thing seems to be shown in the second study by Bauer Danielle et al in 2012. In this study, discussing the possibility of malocclusion experienced by Down syndrome sufferers due to a different palatal shape in individuals with DS than in the normal population due to its narrow arch and V-shape. A narrow maxilla and normal transverse dimensions of the mandible are possible etiologies of posterior crossbite, either unilaterally or bilaterally. In a study by Uonget al. They found that the size of soft tissue such as the tongue and soft palate in Down syndrome was comparable in size to normal children of the same age, but that the width and depth of the hard palate were reduced. Therefore, the general underdevelopment of the maxilla and palate appear to push against the tongue, and makes it impossible to develop the maxilla as occurs in normal tongue posture.<sup>11</sup>

In a third study by Victor Paulo, et al. in 2019, it also showed that Down syndrome of children/adolescents showed a higher prevalence of class III Angle malocclusion, posterior, and anterior crossbite and anterior open bite. This study showed no differences between groups regarding Angle class III malocclusion and crowding. Several factors reported in the literature are associated with a higher prevalence of malocclusion among Down syndrome individuals. Anterior crossbite and Class III Angle malocclusion are common occlusal features in Down syndrome children/adolescents. These characteristics may be associated with maxillary hypoplasia and mandibular prognathism, the craniofacial features commonly observed in Down syndrome individuals. Indeed, the primary bone disorder affecting the orofacial structures in Down syndrome is underdevelopment or hypoplasia of the midface area.<sup>12</sup>

In the fourth study by Mestrovic Senka, et al. in 2002. This study also discusses the relationship between malocclusion in people with Down syndrome based on gender. In this study Class III malocclusion was found to occur twice as often in male subjects than in women with Down syndrome. In contrast, the frequency of unilateral and bilateral crossbites in women was three times that of men. The frequency of other malocclusions was the same in both sexes. In the total number of malocclusions, Class III malocclusion was observed most frequently, namely in 47.6% of cases (in 36.9% and 10.7% in boys and girls, respectively).<sup>13</sup>

And in a recent study by Marques Leandro Silva, et al. in 2015. In contrast to several previous studies which suggest the relationship between the incidence of stunting and the presence of caries and describe the oral health of children. In this study, the authors wrote that the most frequent malocclusions among individuals with Down syndrome were mandibular protrusion, anterior open bite, and posterior crossbite. This finding confirms the results of another study that reported high prevalence values for malocclusions stemming from transverse and vertical occlusal changes. Such changes are associated with insufficient development of the bones, hypotonia of the orofacial muscles and the position of the tongue.

Hypotoniemuscles, which are associated with decreased oral volume and are characterized by a deep atresic palate, can lead to a habitual tendency to stick the tongue over the teeth or outside the mouth. DS sufferers generally have a short facial pattern and reduced development of the middle third of the face, resulting in an Class III Angle malocclusion relationship.<sup>14,15,16,17,18,19,20</sup>

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Down Syndrome is one of the most studied genetic syndromes because of its frequency in our population and its medical significance. Malocclusion was observed in 92% of subjects with Down syndrome. The incidence of malocclusion is higher in children/adolescents with Down syndrome than in individuals without the syndrome. Class III malocclusion is most frequently observed.

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