Orthodontist-patient relationships and treatment satisfaction

Part two of two

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Methodology
Given the social/psychological nature of this research question, a qualitative methodology was chosen because it is best suited to explore dynamic human behaviors rather than a quantitative method (Seidman, 2006). This research study pursued an empirical phenomenological methodology because it “... involves a return to experience in order to obtain comprehensive descriptions that provide the basis for a reflective structural analysis that portrays the essence of the experience.” (Moustakas, 1994, p. 13)

The variables associated with understanding patient-doctor relationships were not easily quantifiable and required understanding a patient’s experiences with his/her orthodontists because feelings are not discrete, numeric or constant; they evolve over the course of a relationship and may manifest differently at various times. The best way to understand patients’ experience was to allow them to express themselves through a survey as the instrument of choice.

Three different populations were surveyed. The first two participant groups were randomly selected from two orthodontic clinics and the third population was a self-selected peer group. Surveys were printed and distributed in March 2018 and collected in October 2018. The two clinics included a private practice in Irvine, Calif., (Group 1-A) and the Herman...
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