

---

---

**Behavior of Children Undergoing Dental Treatment at the First Versus the Second Visit. W. A. Brill\*, Department of Pediatric Dentistry. Univ. of Maryland School of Dentistry.**

**Purpose-**The purpose of this study was to determine if there was a difference in the behavior of children undergoing restorative dental treatment at their first office visit versus those whose first restorative dental treatment visit was after an initial non-threatening dental visit in a private pediatric dental practice.

**Methods-**For patients up to and including 9 years of age, patient behavior was recorded using the Sarant scale, which rates behavior in 5 levels, from completely cooperative to completely uncooperative. Variables such as age, method of payment as an indicator of socio-economic status, referral source and sex were also recorded.

**Results-**The results showed that there was no statistically significant difference in the behavior of children who had their first restorative dental experience at the initial office visit versus those children who had their first restorative dental experience after a non-invasive introductory visit. There were no statistically significant differences according to age, sex, socio-economic status or source of referral.

**Conclusions-**The results suggest that for this particular private pediatric dental practice, a child may not exhibit more negative behavior as a dental patient when the first visit is for restorations than if the treatment is delivered at a later date after a non-threatening introduction to the dental environment. With reservations, it may be inferred that pediatric dentists in other venues need not hesitate to treat a child at the first visit for fear that it may engender more negative behavior than if the restorative dental treatment was postponed until another time.