

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

The factor structure of dental fear

**VAN HOUTEM CMHH, VAN WIJK AJ, BOOMSMA DI, LIGHART L, VISSCHER CM, DE JONGH  
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University of Amsterdam and VU University Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
Salford University, Manchester, United Kingdom

**Table S1.** The questionnaire regarding stimuli that may cause anxiety

You may have experienced the examples below when at the dentist, dental hygienist or dental surgeon. Please indicate for each example whether this caused you anxiety.

	No anxiety at all	Some anxiety	Considerable anxiety	Extreme anxiety
1 Feeling numb	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2 Seeing (sharp) dental instruments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3 Lying in the dental chair (position)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4 Having surgery	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5 Dentist drilling your tooth or molar	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6 Not knowing what's happening in your mouth	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7 Receiving an injection	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8 Extraction of tooth or molar	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9 Seeing blood	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10 An unpleasant remark made by the dentist	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
11 The sound of the drill	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
12 The fact that you don't know what's going to happen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
13 Things in the back of your mouth	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
14 Being pushed about roughly/harshly	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
15 Objects in your mouth	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
16 Lack of explanation by the dentist	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
17 Feeling helpless	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
18 Undergoing root canal treatment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
19 Braces being fixed to your teeth	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
20 Being injured	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
21 Cutting or tearing in soft tissue	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
22 A cavity in a tooth or molar being filled	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
23 Pain	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
24 A dentist in a hurry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
25 Insufficient anaesthetics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
26 Gagging	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
27 A sense of vomiting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
28 Fainting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Additional analyses were carried out to unravel the profile of the sample included in the exploratory factor analyses. The following procedure was performed: first, scores on the items that make up one factor were summed to a factor score. Next, for each factor, the median was determined and used to split the sample into those scoring (arbitrarily) high or low on each factor. The results are presented in Tables S2 - Tables S5. Of the individuals (n = 5,135) 33.7% (n = 1,732) showed a low score on each of the three factors, whereas 26.6% (137) had a high score on each of the factors. To illustrate, of the participants 1730 individuals displayed a high score on both the factor “losing control” and “invasive treatment or pain” (Table S2). Of the individuals (n = 5135) 33.7% (n = 1732) showed a low score on each of the three factors, whereas 26.62% (137) had a high score on each of the factors (see Tables S3, S4 and S5). Furthermore, 7.5% (n = 386) of the participants had only a high score on the factor “invasive treatment or pain”, 3% (n = 150) had only a high score on losing control, and 9.8% (n = 501) had only a high score on physical sensations, but not on the other two factors (see Table S3, S4 and S5).

**Table S2.** Cross tabulation between the three factors; invasive treatment or pain, losing control and physical sensations.

		Losing control		Physical sensations		Total
		Low	High	Low	High	
Invasive treatment or pain	Low	2233	410	1882	761	2643
	High	762	1730	749	1743	2492
Losing control	Low	-	-	2118	877	2995
	High	-	-	513	1627	2140
Total		2995	2140	2631	2504	5135

**Table S3.** Cross tabulation between the factors physical sensations and losing control, for individuals with high and low scores on the factor “invasive treatment or pain”.

			Physical sensations		
			Low	High	
Invasive treatment or pain	Low	Losing Control	Low	1732	501
			High	150	260
	High	Losing Control	Low	386	376
			High	363	1367

**Table S4.** Cross tabulation between the factors physical sensations and invasive treatment or pain, for individuals with high and low scores on the factor “losing control”.

			Physical sensations		
			Low	High	
Losing control	Low	Invasive treatment or pain	Low	1732	501
			High	386	376
	High	Invasive treatment or pain	Low	150	260
			High	363	1367

**Table S5.** Cross tabulation between the factors losing control and invasive treatment or pain, for individuals with high and low scores on the factor “physical sensations”.

			Losing control		
			Low	High	
Aversive physical sensations	Low	Invasive treatment or pain	Low	1732	150
			High	386	363
	High	Invasive treatment or pain	Low	501	260
			High	376	1367