

Table 4 Percentage distribution of children according to sub-types of emotional abuse experienced (n = 60)

Types of emotional abuse	Usually		Sometimes		Rarely		Never	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Rejecting emotional abuse								
Yelling at child	16	26.7	20	33.3	20	33.3	4	6.7
Treating an adolescent like he/she is a child	13	21.7	9	15.0	12	20.0	26	43.3
Constant criticism	10	16.7	26	43.3	20	33.3	4	6.7
Frequent belittling and use of labels such as "stupid" or "idiot"	9	15.0	8	13.3	17	28.3	26	43.3
Refusing hugs and loving gestures	7	11.7	6	10.0	11	18.3	36	60.0
Not allowing child to make his/her own reasonable choices	6	10.0	7	11.7	7	11.7	39	65.0
Constant teasing about child's body type and/or weight	3	5.0	7	11.7	15	25.0	35	58.3
Constant demeaning jokes	3	5.0	9	15.0	8	13.3	40	66.7
Expressing regret child wasn't born the opposite sex	3	5.0	2	3.3	8	13.3	47	78.3
Telling child he/she is ugly	1	1.7	2	3.3	6	10.0	50	83.3
Ignoring emotional abuse								
Failing to pay attention to significant events in child's life	16	26.7	14	23.3	13	21.7	17	28.3
Lack of attention to schooling, peers, etc.	14	23.3	8	13.3	13	21.7	25	41.7
Failing to engage child in family activities	10	16.7	8	13.3	12	20.0	30	50.0
Ignoring child	4	6.7	11	18.3	10	16.7	35	58.3
Neglecting child	5	8.3	9	15.0	17	28.3	29	48.3
Denying child required health care	1	1.7	1	1.7	6	10.0	52	86.7
Terrorizing emotional abuse								
Father hits mother in front of child	13	21.7	5	8.3	7	11.7	35	58.3
Yelling, cursing and scaring child	11	18.3	7	11.7	17	28.3	25	41.7
Threats to abuse child physically	10	16.7	8	13.3	11	18.3	31	51.7
Destroys a favourite object	9	15.0	5	8.3	8	13.3	38	63.3
Threats to destroy a favourite object	7	11.7	3	5.0	10	16.7	40	66.7
Father yells at mother a front of child	7	11.7	3	5.0	4	6.7	46	76.7
Ridiculing child in public	6	10.0	4	6.7	12	20.0	38	63.3
Threats to kick child out of the house	5	8.3	1	1.7	7	11.7	47	78.3
Threats to reveal intensely embarrassing traits to peers	4	6.7	3	5.0	4	6.7	49	81.7
Threats to cut allowance	3	5.0	3	5.0	9	15.0	45	75.0