

IMPACT OF ORAL DISEASES AND ORAL HEALTH-RELATED CONDITIONS ON QUALITY OF LIFE.

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Abstract. Oral health-related quality of life (OHRQoL) is a novel concept that has evolved over the past two decades. Information on OHRQoL gives better understanding about feelings and perceptions on an individual level. It also helps us to understand the impact of oral health on the lives on the patients and their family. It is now well documented that oral diseases and conditions impact people's life. Some of the oral diseases/conditions like caries, dental fluorosis, tooth loss, periodontal disease, dental injuries, oral cancer, dental anomalies, craniofacial disorders, and many more have got negative impact on QoL.

Key words: oral health related quality of life, quality of life, oral health, health

Introduction

Oral diseases have functional, emotional, and social consequences and oral health-related pain can disrupt people's food choices and speech, thereby diminishing the quality of life (QoL) [2,3]. Some of the oral diseases and conditions like caries, dental fluorosis, tooth loss, periodontal disease, dental injuries, oral cancer, dental anomalies, craniofacial disorders, and many more have got negative impact on QoL. Lately, various authors have demonstrated the relationship between these oral diseases/conditions with QoL in various populations.

Oral health-related quality of life (OHRQoL) is a novel concept that has evolved over the past two decades. OHRQoL is "a multidimensional construct that reflects (among other things) people's comfort when eating, sleeping, and engaging in social interaction; their self-esteem; and their satisfaction with respect to their oral health" [5]. It is also related with psychological factors, social factors, functional factors, and experience of pain or discomfort [6]. Various oral conditions have been reported in the literature as having an impact on OHRQoL.

Review

Studies conducted in English were included. The search criteria included various oral diseases such as dental caries, dental fluorosis, tooth loss, periodontal disease, dental injuries, oral cancer, and dental anomalies. Studies evaluating the OHRQoL through assessment of functional, psychological, and social factors and experience of pain/discomfort in relation to oral diseases by means of validated tool were selected. Tooth loss and edentulism affect dietary choice, masticatory function, and nutritional

level. Study was conducted that measured the impact of tooth loss on the OHRQoL in adult patients pursuing dental care.

Missing teeth are routinely replaced with fixed dental prostheses. It was found that dental plaque and gingival inflammation inevitably occur when proper oral hygiene measures were not applied [10,11]. To improve patients' OHRQoL and to ensure the durability of the prosthodontic appliances, postoperative oral hygiene instructions and patient awareness should be increased [12].

Over the years, implants have become the treatment of choice for replacing missing tooth [13,14]. Researchers have studied the effect of immediate and delayed implant loading into the extracted site on the QoL in pre- and post-insertion period. QoL was better among the patients where dental implants were loaded immediately as compared to the delayed loading of dental implant [15].

There are several studies that reported that the dental caries have negative impacts on OHRQoL in populations of different ages [16-17]. The effect of dental caries experience and untreated dental decay and on OHRQoL was examined in working adults. The OHRQoL was evaluated using the OHIP-14 questionnaire. Significant caries (SiC) and decayed missed filled surfaces (DMFS) indices were used as dental health indicators. The results indicated that the SiC score could statistically significantly predict the OHIP score [17].

Conclusions

There is always a need for greater number of studies to be documented regarding the OHRQoL. Information on OHRQoL gives better understanding about feelings and perceptions on an individual level, thereby helping to increase the chance of effective communication between health professionals and patients. It also helps us to understand the impact of oral health on the lives of the patients and their family.

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