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### Original article

# Oral health-related quality of life and satisfaction before and after treatment with complete dentures in a Dental School in Brazil

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#### Abstract

Purpose: The aim of this study was to evaluate the impact of treatment with new complete dentures on oral health-related quality of life and satisfaction of edentulous patients attending the Prosthodontic Department in a Dental School in Brazil. Methods: A total of 70 edentulous subjects (37–86 years) treated by undergradute students at the Araçatuba Dental School, University of State of São Paulo, were accessed. A specific questionnaire for edentulous patients (EDENT) based on the Oral Health Impact Profile (OHIP-EDENT) was applied to collect information on patient oral health-related quality of life. Questions related to the personal satisfaction of the edentulous patients with their complete dentures were also included. The patients were accessed before the treatment, and 3 months after receiving the new dentures. Results: After rehabilitation with new complete dentures, all domains of OHIP-EDENT showed significant improvements. There was also a significant improvement in patient satisfaction after placement of new complete dentures. Furthermore, it was possible to observe association between upper denture satisfaction and age. Conclusion: Conventional complete dentures may have a positive impact on oral health-related quality of life and satisfaction of edentulous patients.

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Keywords: Oral health-related quality of life; Complete denture; Patient satisfaction

#### 1. Introduction

It is well known that the transition to edentulousness is occurring later in patient lives due to increased life expectancy and high levels of dental disease in middle-aged and old-aged population [1,2]. The lack of all teeth contributes to disability, impairment and handicap [3], and for most of edentulous patients the rehabilitation with conventional complete dentures is the only accessible treatment option [4]. In this context, it is possible that the edentulousness and the wearing of conventional complete dentures can affect the quality of life and patient satisfaction [5].

Oral health-related quality of life (OHRQoL) has been used to investigate the impact of loss of all natural teeth and available

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treatment options in clinical researches [6–9]. This term includes some factors that may be affected by oral health of patients, such as personal ability to function, psychological state, social factors, and pain/discomfort [10]. Usually, OHRQoL is measured by the Oral Health Impact Profile (OHIP) questionnaire [11], and there are several studies in the literature using the OHIP in complete denture wearers [12–15]. The original OHIP consists of 49 questions, but reduced versions of this questionnaire without adverse changes have been explored [16]. Among the smaller versions, OHIP-EDENT has emerged to be a specific questionnaire for edentulous patients [16], which shows OHRQoL changes before and after placement of new complete dentures [17].

Several researches have examined the impact of edentulism and its subsequent rehabilitation on OHRQoL [5,13,18–20]. Ellis et al. [13] evaluated the satisfaction and OHRQoL of patients rehabilitated with complete conventional or duplicate dentures. The authors found an overall improvement in patient satisfaction and OHRQoL one month after delivery of new dentures (conventional or duplication technique). In addition, these findings were significant for some domains, depending on

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#### Functional limitation

l. Have you ever noticed tha	it your denture:	retained food?		
□ never	_	□ sometimes	•	□ almost always
2. Have you ever felt that yo	ur dentures we		?	Calmantal
☐ never  3. Have you ever had difficu	ltu in chauing a	□ sometimes	hlame with wour mouth o	□ almost always
never	ity ni chemnig a	sometimes	ntenis with Jour model o	□ almost always
B 167C1		L Somethies		L aniiosi aways
Physical pain				
4. Have you ever felt your m	outh painful?			
□ never		□ sometimes		□ almost always
5. Have you ever felt any kin	d of discomfor	while eating due t	o problems with your mo	uth or dentures?
□ never		☐ sometimes		□ almost always
Psychological discomfort				
6. Have you ever felt embarr	assed hecause	of your mouth or d	entures?	
never		□ sometimes		🛘 almost always
7. Have you ever been in an	embarrassing s	ituation due to pro	blems with your mouth o	r dentures?
□ never		□ sometimes		□ almost always
Physical disability				
8. Have you ever avoided ea	ting anything d	ue to problems wi	th your mouth or denture	s?
□ never		□ sometimes		🛘 almost always
9. Have you ever felt unable	to eat due to p		mouth or dentures?	
□ never		□ sometimes		🛘 almost always
Social disability				
10. Have you ever avoided le	eaving home du	e to problems wift	vour mouth or dentures	?
never never	9	☐ sometimes		□ almost always
Handicap				
11. Have you ever felt that l	ife in general w	as less satisfying di	e to problems with your	mouth or dentures?
□ never		□ sometimes		□ almost always
Satisfaction				
12. Are you satisfied with yo	ur upper denti	re?		
□ mostly satisfied	□ satisfied	□ not satisfied	□ mostly not satisfied	□ no answer
13. Are you satisfied with yo			20	
□ mostly satisfied	□ satisfied	I not satisfied	I mostly not satisfied	∏ no answer

Fig. 1. Questionnaire answered by the patients.

the technique used for the fabrication of the dentures. Similarly, in the study of Veyrune et al. [19], an improvement on the OHRQoL was verified 12 weeks after the edentulous patients received their new complete dentures. However, Forgie et al. [5] found that the new complete dentures improved patient satisfaction, but in general it did not have impact on the quality of life parameters.

Despite of the aforementioned context, little is known about the consequence of conventional complete dentures replacement on OHRQoL and satisfaction of patients treated in university clinics in Brazil. Thus, the aim of the current study was to assess the impact of treatment with new complete dentures on OHRQoL and satisfaction of edentulous patients attending the Prosthodontic Department in a Dental School in

Brazil. The null hypothesis was that there would be no difference between the OHRQoL and patient satisfaction before and 3 months after treatment with new dentures.

#### 2. Materials and methods

The study was carried out in 2006–2007 and received the approval by the local Ethic Committee in Research of Araçatuba Dental School (Process Number 2006-08152). Inclusion criteria comprised edentulous patients who sought prosthodontic treatment for provision of both upper and lower complete dentures, regardless of complexity of the cases, in 2006 in the Dental Clinic of the Araçatuba Dental School, Univ Estadual Paulista (UNESP), Brazil. Exclusion criteria included

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