

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 undergraduate 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

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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