

Other journals in brief

A selection of abstracts of clinically relevant papers from other journals.

The abstracts on this page have been chosen and edited by John R. Radford.

'INTERGENERATIONAL EFFECT'

The paradox of better subjective oral health in older age

Slade GD, Sanders AE. *J Dent Res* 2011; **90**: 1279–1285

The young are '...poor planners, unenthusiastic savers but voracious consumers' and 'expected more in all aspects of life, including health and health care'.

The elderly seem to accept that dental disease is part of ageing. This is an explanation as to why in this study, only 18.7% of older people considered issues associated with eating and/or appearance were of concern, compared with 46.7% of young people, although all subjects were dentate denture-wearers. These and other findings were based on 1) a simple telephone interview of 14,092 Australian adults, 2) a dental examination carried out on some of this cohort and 3) a detailed OHIP-14 (self-completed questionnaire exploring 'adverse impacts of the teeth, mouth, or dentures on daily life'). This paradox of better subjective oral health in the elderly has also been observed for general health.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2012.66

QUALITY OF LIFE

Denture quality has a minimal effect on health-related quality of life in patients with removable dentures

Inoue M, John MT *et al.* *J Oral Rehabil* 2011; **38**: 818–826

Denture quality does have an effect but it is a 'rather "local"' effect on quality of life.

The stability and dental aesthetics of both removable partial dentures and complete dentures was rated, using a visual analogue scale, for 171 consecutive patients who attended the Showa University's Prosthodontics Clinic, Japan. In addition, health-related quality of life (HRQoL using SF-36 version) and the oral health-related quality of life (OHRQoL using OHIP-J) were measured. Linear regression analysis showed that denture stability only was associated with the mental component of HRQoL but there was no relationship between denture stability or denture aesthetics with the physical component of HRQoL. When OHIP-J was added to the regression model, denture aesthetics was associated the mental and physical summary scores. The investigators suggest that denture quality has a 'rather "local"' effect on HRQoL, in contrast to, for example, temporomandibular joint disorders.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2012.68

TIP OF NOSE TO CHIN

Reliability and comparison of two facial measurements to detect changes of occlusal vertical dimension in complete denture wearers

Şakar O, Sülün T *et al.* *Gerodontology* 2011; **28**: 205–208

Confirmation that 'the mandible move(s) more than the skin marks'.

An enduring problem is how to measure reliably the occlusal vertical dimension (OVD) when constructing complete dentures, particularly when using facial measurements. In this study, the distance from the 1) tip of the nose to the chin, and 2) from the subnasal to the chin was compared at different OVD in 30 edentulous subjects. The OVD was altered using a central bearing device that was attached to base plates. These investigators found the distances recorded using skin markers were unreliable. Notwithstanding this, the tip of the nose to the chin was not as fickle as the subnasal to the chin. For example, when measuring the distance from the subnasal to the chin, one measurement decreased by 4.5 mm when the OVD actually increased by 5 mm!

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2012.67

'SENSE OF SELF'

Oral health-related quality of life: what, why, how, and future implications

Sischo L, Broder H L. *J Dent Res* 2011; **90**: 1264–1270

Patients at the centre.

Patient-centred outcomes acknowledge that many chronic diseases cannot be 'cure(d)'. In addition, patient-centred outcomes 'have particularly "flourished" in the research domain' as it is increasingly being accepted that patients have an 'active role as a member of the treatment team'. Oral health-related quality of life (OHRQoL) is a 'multidimensional construct' acknowledging among other issues, the impact of the economic divide. Nevertheless, the relationship between sociodemographic characteristics and OHRQoL is not always as anticipated. For example, the authors cite others who found Latino immigrants reported higher OHRQoL than non-Latino whites. Less defined characteristics such as how patients are able to relate to their disease and how this can impact on their life are revisited. The authors argue that embracing OHRQoL allows care provision to be enhanced by, for example, recruiting psychological approaches such as cognitive behaviour therapy.

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