PROSTHETIC AND SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC MODULATORS OF THE ORAL HEALTH-RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE OF IMPLANT OVERDENTURE WEARERS.

**Objectives:** To identify possible factors that may modulate the oral health-related quality of life (OHRQoL) in patients with maxillary implant-overdentures (IOmx).

**Materials and Methods:** 70 patients wearing IOmx were recruited by a consecutive sampling procedure for this cross-sectional study. Participants were classified into 2 balanced groups according to their partnership status (n= 35 each): Group-1 (patients with partner), Group-2 (patients without partner); and concerning their gender (n= 35 each): Group-A (women), Group- B (men). QoLIP-10, QoLFAST-10, and QoLDAS-9 questionnaires were responded, and patients were clinically examined. Sociodemographic, and prosthesis-related data were gathered. Descriptive statistics were calculated. Potential QoL modulators were assessed using non- parametric probes (Chi-square, Kruskal-Wallis, and Mann-Whitney U tests; = 0.05).

**Results:** The QoLDAS-9 scale discriminated the study groups (p< 0.05). The partnership status significantly affected the item 7 of the QoLDAS-9 index (Socio-dental dimension), the Group-2 being more satisfied with the size of the prosthetic teeth compared to Group-1 (p= 0.005).

The gender modulates the QoLDAS-9 total score, conferring to Group-A better self-perception with the IOmx (p= 0.000), concretely about its Psycho-facial (p= 0.000) and Interactive (p= 0.016) domains. Group-A referred better wellbeing with the IOmx when speaking (item 9, Performance subscale) with the QoLIP-10 (p< 0.05).

The partnership status affected the QoLFAST-10 Social dimension (p< 0.02) and total score (p<0.05), the volunteers without partner being more satisfied.

The retention system did not impact the QoL perception, while the bar worsen the appearance of the oral mucosa (p= 0.05). The OHRQoL increased as the retention, stability, and aesthetics of the prosthesis improved (p< 0.05).

**Conclusions:** Overall, IOmx wearers have a satisfactory OHRQoL. The IOmx retention system does not influence the OHRQoL. Women and patients without partner are more satisfied with the treatment. A better OHRQoL is perceived when the retention, stability, and aesthetics of the restoration are suitable.