

THE INFLUENCE OF EXPERIENCE ON ORAL HEALTH-RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE IN COMPLETE DENTURE WEARERS

Objectives: Complete edentulism impacts patients' quality of life. Denture experience is crucial for analyzing the impact of denture usage. The main purpose of this study was to analyze the effects of denture experience, and demographics on oral health-related quality of life.

Materials and Methods: In this study, 352 patients were included who were treated with maxillary and mandibular complete dentures by a single clinician within four years and wore the dentures for a minimum of one year. Participants were evaluated in terms of age, gender, systemic diseases, denture experience, clinician advice, and wearing dentures at night. Answers to the Geriatric Oral Health Assessment Index and Oral Health Impact Profile questionnaires were collected, and a statistical analysis was performed.

Results: Both scales were found to be reliable, and a high degree of correlation was detected ($p = 0.00$). According to Oral Health Impact Profile-14, the experience related to psychological discomfort ($p = 0.036$), social disability ($p = 0.01$), and handicaps ($p = 0.00$) while the Geriatric Oral Health Assessment Index found that the denture experience affects the behavioral impacts ($p = 0.00$). It was determined that factors of age, denture experience, clinician advice, and wearing dentures at night influenced oral health-related quality of life.

Conclusions: The findings of this study indicated that denture experience considerably improved patients' oral health-related quality of life. Also, Oral Health Impact Profile-14 and Geriatric Oral Health Assessment Index showed high levels of validity and reliability for edentulous patients.

Keywords: Complete Dentures; Oral Health; Patient Satisfaction; Quality of Life.