

Editorial

Edentulism and Quality of Life

The term 'quality of life' is often used as an umbrella that covers various concepts, i.e. health status, function and life conditions. In general, quality of life (QoL) is defined as an individual's perception of his or her position in life, in the context of the culture and value systems in which they live, in relation to their goals, expectations and concerns.¹ Edentulism may lead to changes in most of the domains leading to poorer QoL (e.g. impaired mastication, denture trauma, esthetic concerns or negative self-perception). Teeth have an important role in facial appearance, speech, and eating ability. There is overwhelming evidence showing the negative effect of edentulism on oral health-related QoL. Edentulism negatively influences not only oral function but also social life and day-to-day activities.² Compromised oral function has been linked to decreased self-esteem and a decline in psychosocial well-being. Edentulous people may avoid participation in social activities because they are embarrassed to speak, smile or eat in front of others, leading to isolation.² Many people develop skills to overcome the limitations of dentures, but some are unable to do so. Denture wearers have decreased self-confidence, premature aging, altered self-image and altered behavior in socializing and forming close relationships.² On the other hand, dental implant supported overdenture and implant supported fixed restoration have proven to improve the QoL. As these restorations will improve oral appearance and social interactions of individuals, which might enhance self-esteem and thus contribute to psychological well-being. Hence, it is essential to enhance our clinical skills and learn the treatment modalities which will help in improving the QoL of our patients.



REFERENCES

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