

Editorial 1

Do Restorative Dentist need to know Geriatric Oral Health Assessment Index?

Since several decades, several studies have been reported on health-related quality of life. The development of measures for assessing oral health status is essential to the evolution and maturation of a scientific knowledge base in geriatric dentistry. The literature suggests a high prevalence of dental diseases in older adults, yet valid and reliable instruments to assess the impact of oral diseases on older individuals or population are lacking.¹ Geriatric oral health assessment index (GOHAI) is a self-reported measure designed to assess the oral health problems of older adults.

The geriatric oral health assessment index, developed by Atchison and Dolan,¹ is a 12-item questionnaire consisting of three hypothetical dimensions of oral health-related quality of life (OHRQoL) that covers the following:²

- Physical function which includes eating, speaking and swallowing.
- Psychosocial function which includes worry or concern about oral health, dissatisfaction with appearance, self-consciousness about oral health, avoidance of social contacts because of oral problems, and
- Pain and/or discomfort, which includes use of medication to relieve pain or oral discomfort.

Since its development, GOHAI has been translated for use in various languages and cultures, such as German,³ Swedish,⁴ French,⁵ Arabic,⁶ Hindi,² and has shown to be an effective and reliable means to assess OHRQoL among population.

These kind of indices not only teach the status of the patients but also give restorative dentist an idea about the appropriate treatment planning for an individual, such that the quality of life of that patient is improved. Thus, it becomes very essential for an restorative dentist to understand such index and implement in their practice, for the better treatment plan.

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