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## Assessing change in oral health-related quality of life using OHIP

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The Oral Health Impact Profile (OHIP) is used for measuring oral health-related quality of life (QOL) and the assessment of oral therapy outcomes. We aimed to assess the change in QOL in institutionalized elderly Chinese following basic dental care. 231 elderly Chinese aged 60–80 years living in elderly homes completed the Chinese version of OHIP-49 at baseline, assisted by a trained interviewer. The elderly were then examined clinically and 143 (62%) of them received treatment from a dental out-reach team. Treatment included restorations, extractions, scaling, denture adjustment and fluoride varnish. The elderly were interviewed again 6 months later. OHIP summary scores at baseline and 6-month follow-up were computed by summing negative impacts across the 49 statements (OHIP-SC). At baseline and 6-month follow-up, no significant differences were found in mean OHIP-SC scores between those who received treatment and those who did not (baseline: 3.2 vs. 3.3, 6-month follow-up: 4.1 vs. 3.8,  $p > 0.05$ ). 39% of those who did not received treatment had no change in the OHIP-SC scores, while 40% had higher scores (i.e. increased negative impact) and 22% had lower scores at 6-month follow-up. Only 20% of those who received dental treatment had no change in OHIP-SC scores, while 50% had higher and 31% had lower scores. The two distributions were significantly different ( $p < 0.05$ ). We concluded that measuring change in QOL was complex. Proportionally more of the elderly who received dental treatment had changes in OHIP-SC scores. (Support: CRCG-HKU/RGC-HKSAR/S.K. Yee Medical Foundation)

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