

# **1501 Self-perceived Changes in Quality of Life Among Children**

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Although changes in clinical oral health status among children have been studied, changes in self-perceptions of oral health and its impact on life quality have received little attention. **OBJECTIVES:** To assess global self-perceived changes in oral health related quality of life (OHQoL) over a 12-month period among children. In addition, to identify factors associated with self-perceived changes in OHQoL. **METHODS:** A longitudinal study of a random sample of 150 12-year-old Hong Kong children over a 12-month period. Children self-completed the 37-item Child Perceptions Questionnaire (CPQ), with questions relating to oral symptoms (OS), functional limitations (FL), emotional well-being (EWB) and social well-being (SWB), and rated their oral health status and its impact on their life quality on global scales at baseline and 12-months later. **RESULTS:** The response rate was 84% (126/150). Most (79%, 100/126) perceived that the impact of oral health on their life quality had changed over the year; 46% (58) reporting a deterioration in life quality. Self-perceived changes in OHQoL was associated with changes in CPQ scores overall ( $P<0.05$ ) and changes in OS ( $P<0.05$ ), FL ( $P<0.01$ ), EWB ( $P<0.01$ ) and SWB ( $P<0.05$ ). Regression analysis explored the combined effects of socio-demographics (gender and family income), use of dental services, and changes in CPQ domain scores in relation to changes in global perceptions of OHQoL. Changes in EWB emerged as having a significant independent effect contributing to changes in global perceptions of OHQoL ( $P<0.05$ ). **Conclusions:** Perceived impact of oral health status on life quality globally changes during childhood and self-perceived changes are associated with perceived changes in the impact of oral health on emotional well being.

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