

2514 Can third molar surgery improve quality of life?

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Objectives: This study evaluated patients' perceptions of changes in oral health related quality of life (OHQOL) over a six-month period following third molar surgery. **Methods:** One hundred patients participated in this prospective study. Two specific oral health related quality of life measures, OHIP-14 and OHQoL-UK©, were administered to the study group prior to surgery. Standardized surgical and analgesic protocols were employed. Patients kept a diary of changes in life quality each postoperative day for seven days and were contacted one and six months following surgery. **Results:** Both measures identified a significant deterioration in quality of life in the immediate postoperative period, during the first week ($P < 0.01$). However, there was an improvement in OHQOL compared to preoperative status one month ($P < 0.05$) and six months ($P < 0.01$) postoperatively. Changes in OHQOL were associated with previous experience of pericoronitis ($P < 0.05$).

Conclusions: The study concludes that there were significant improvements in quality of life following third molar surgery. However, in the immediate postoperative period patients experienced deterioration in OHQOL. Patients with symptomatic rather than asymptomatic third molars were more likely to benefit, in terms of improvement in quality of life, from third molar surgery.

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