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Three-dimensional assessment of the oral health-related quality of life in Saudi patients undergoing fixed orthodontic therapy - A cross-sectional study

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Background: Discomfort associated with the use of fixed orthodontic appliances may have a negative influence on patient's oral health-related quality of life (OHRQoL). In general, OHRQoL assessments have the potential to provide information about treatment needs and outcomes and to improve the overall quality of care.

Aim: to assess the impact of fixed orthodontic appliances on oral health-related quality of life.

Materials and methods: This cross-sectional study used a generic measure of OHRQoL the Arabic version of the Oral Health Impact Profile (OHIP-14), which is a responsive measure to changes in oral health conditions. Data were collected using self-completed e-questionnaire which was distributed through social media.

Results: A total of 149 subjects, 110 (73.8%) were females and 39 (26.2%) were males. Adolescents between 13-20 years were 63 (42.3%) and adults between 21-30 years were 86 (75.7%). A response rate of 100% was obtained. The Prevalence of oral health impacts according to OHP-14 was 22.5%. Oral health impact profile-14 (OHIP-14) consists of 14 items covering seven domains and a three-dimensional structure was used to test the existence of separate dimensions: functional limitation, pain discomfort, psychosocial impact. A significant difference was found between males and females in the first dimension ($p=0.038$) and the third dimension ($p=0.022$). Additionally, a significant difference was also found between the two age groups included in the study within the third dimension ($p=0.025$).

Conclusion: Fixed orthodontic appliances has a minimal effect on OHRQoL. However, males have significantly altered functional limitations while females have a higher psychological impact. Also, adults have a significantly higher psychological impact than adolescents.

Biography

Jana N Alqefari is currently pursuing her dental internship at College of Dentistry, Qassim University, Buraydah, Saudi Arabia. Her research experience is in valuation and treatment methodology of orthodontic appliances.

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