

MEETING ABSTRACT

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Patient-reported outcomes after one year of periodontal treatment at public specialist dental clinics in Peninsular Malaysia

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Background

Success of most periodontal treatment modalities as demonstrated by clinical parameters is well-established. These measurements, however, do not capture the full impact of treatment on the oral health status and health-related quality of life (QoL) of the patients. This study aims to assess the effectiveness of periodontal treatment provided at selected government specialist dental clinics using patient-reported outcomes.

Materials and methods

This prospective study involved patients who visited five randomly selected government periodontics clinics in Malaysia for treatment of periodontitis. Following ethics approval, all patients meeting the selection criteria were recruited over a period of eight months and comprehensive periodontal treatment ensued for a period of twelve months. Diagnosis of periodontitis was based on presence of periodontal pockets at least 4mm deep. At the end of the study period periodontal treatment outcomes were assessed using two patient-centred outcome measures: Oral Health Impact Profile (OHIP-14S) and Euroqol EQ-5D-3L index.

Results

A total of 145 patients started periodontal treatment but only 139 (95.8%) completed the 12-month study period. At post-treatment, patients had significantly improved oral health-related QoL ($P < 0.001$) Wilcoxon Signed Rank

Test; median OHIP-14S score of 7.0 at post-treatment vs 22.0 at baseline). Further, Cohen's effect size was calculated to be 1.1, suggesting practical significance. Improvement in general health status was indicated by gain in EQ5D-utility and Visual Analogue scores at post-treatment ($P < 0.001$ Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test; median utility score of 1.0 vs 0.73 and median VAS of 80 vs 70 at post-treatment and baseline respectively). Improvements in clinical parameters also reflected positive outcomes consistent with that of patient-reported outcomes.

Conclusion

Periodontal treatment provided at the selected government periodontics clinics in Malaysia is effective in improving oral health status and health-related quality of life of the patients. Employing patient reported outcome measures in assessing effectiveness of dental health services will be an added value in providing high quality patient-centred healthcare.

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