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Author(s)	McGrath, C; Pang, HN; Lo, ECM
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1501 Self-perceived Changes in Quality of Life Among Children

C. MCGRATH, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, SAR, China, H.N. PANG, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, and E.C.M. LO, University of Hong Kong, Faculty of Dentistry, Hong Kong

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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