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Perceived oral health condition and self-satisfaction with oral health

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Objective: To investigate the inter-relationships between perceived oral health (OH) condition, self-satisfaction with OH, oral health-related quality of life (OHQoL) and clinical OH condition in Hong Kong Chinese elderly. Methods: Southern Chinese elders aged 60-80 years were interviewed to find out their perceived OH condition, self-satisfaction with OH and OHQoL. The Oral Health Impact Profile (OHIP) questionnaire was adopted for measuring OHQoL. A clinical examination was conducted to assess the tooth and periodontal conditions of the elders. A structural Equation Modeling (SEM) approach was used to calculate correlations simultaneously between perceived OH condition, self-satisfaction with OH, OHQoL and clinical OH condition. Results: 268 institutionalized elders (IE) and 318 community-dwelling elders (CDE) were interviewed and examined clinically. Positive correlations were found between perceived OH condition and self-satisfaction with OH ($r=0.67$ for both IE and CDE, $p<0.05$), between perceived OH condition and OHQoL (IE: $r=0.61$; CDE: $r=0.44$, $p<0.05$), and between self-satisfaction with OH and OHQoL (IE: $r=0.64$; CDE: $r=0.58$, $p<0.05$). There were also weak correlations between OHQoL and clinical OH condition (IE: $r=0.16$; CDE: $r=0.20$, $p<0.05$) and between self-satisfaction with OH and clinical OH for CDE only ($r=0.18$, $p<0.05$). However, no statistically significant correlation was found between perceived OH condition and clinical OH condition. Conclusion: Significant inter-relationships were found between the four parameters studied. Furthermore, the relationships were different between the two elderly groups.

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