



Title	Changes in life quality following third molar surgery
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Changes in life quality following third molar surgery. C. McGrath*, M.B. Comfort,
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PURPOSE: This study evaluated patients' perceptions of changes in oral health related quality of life (OHQOL) in the early postoperative period following third molar surgery. **METHODS:** Fifty patients (aged 17 to 41 years) were enrolled in a prospective cohort study of the surgical removal of third molars under local anaesthesia. Two specific oral health related quality of life measures, OHIP-14 and OHQoL-UK[®] were administered to the study group prior to surgery. Following surgery standardised postoperative analgesics were provided. Patients kept a diary of changes in life quality each postoperative day (POD) for 7 days, completing both OHIP-14 and OHQoL-UK[®] daily. **RESULTS:** Both oral health related quality of life measures identified a significant deterioration in quality of life on POD1 ($P<0.01$) and this remained evident on POD2 ($P<0.01$), POD3 ($P<0.01$), POD4 ($P<0.01$) and POD5 ($P<0.01$). By POD6 and POD7 there was no significant difference in quality of life compared to preoperative status ($P>0.05$). Deterioration in life quality over the study period was associated with tooth factors ($P<0.01$), surgical procedure ($P<0.05$), and postoperative clinical findings ($P<0.05$). **CONCLUSION:** The study concludes that there is a significant deterioration in oral health related quality of life in the immediate postoperative period following third molar surgery; particularly during the first five days. This is associated with tooth, surgical and postoperative factors. This has implication for patients deciding on their molar surgery and informed consent. Supported by a grant from URC, HKU.

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