

# ***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.

[Behavioral Sciences/Health Services Research](#)

[The Preliminary Program for Annual Scientific Meeting, 19th International Association for Dental Research-Southeast Asia Division and 13th Southeast Asia Association for Dental Education \(September 3-6, 2004\)](#)