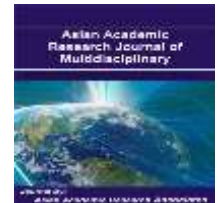




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**ORAL HEALTH STATUS AND ORAL HEALTH-RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE OF
ADULT PATIENTS AT MATHARI HOSPITAL DENTAL UNIT, NAIROBI**

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Abstract

Oral health is a condition that affects many people physically and psychologically and determines their growth, lifestyle, appearance, speech, eating, food testing and how they socialize, as well as their sense of social well-being. The broad objective of the study was to determine oral health status and related impacts on quality of life of adult dental patients at Mathari Hospital using the 1997 World Health Organization (WHO) oral health assessment form to assess oral health status while Oral Health Related Quality of Life (OHRQoL) was determined by administering Oral Health Impact Profile-14 (OHIP-14) and semi-structured questionnaires. The prevalence of leukoplakia and fluorosis amongst the respondents were 38.2% and 16.9% respectively. Mean Decayed Missing Filled Teeth (DMFT) was $9.04 \pm 5.995(SD)$ with dental caries and missing teeth at 57.02% and 39.34% respectively. The need for fillings and prostheses were 10% and 34% respectively. Pain and infections were main reasons for immediate dental care. Participants reported impacts of oral health status as follows: physical pain (56.4%), physical disability (41.6%), psychological disability (36.75%) and psychological discomfort (35.05%) amongst dimensions of OHIP-14. Study results indicated a positive association between DMFT and OHRQoL. Oral diseases were found to have negative impacts on activities of daily living. The results of this study will be applied in enriching community focused oral health promotion and services.

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