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CHANGE IN ORAL HEALTH-RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE AFTER ORTHODONTIC TREATMENT- PRELIMINARY DATA

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Introduction: Well-aligned teeth and a pleasing smile carry positive status at all social levels and ages. Protruding maxillary incisors have greater susceptibility to trauma, and increase the risk of inability to seal the lips and facilitate mouth breathing. Untreated malocclusions have physical, psychological, and social consequences on the quality of life of adolescents.

Aim: To assess changes in oral health-related quality of life (OHRQoL) of children and their parents after overjet reduction by utilizing a before-and-after design.

Subjects and Methods: A sample of 60 patients between the ages of 8-18 years with increased dental overjet ($\geq 6\text{mm}$) was selected of which 30 were pre-treatment (Group 1) and 30 were post-treatment (Group 2) with dental overjet reduced to normal limits. The data collection instrument was the Child Oral Health Quality of Life (COHQoL) Questionnaire which consists of self-completion Parental-Caregiver Perception Questionnaires (P-CPQ) and Child Perception Questionnaires (CPQ).

Preliminary Results: The prevalence, extent, and severity of quality of life impacts were calculated from responses of ten adolescents before treatment. Overall, half of the adolescents experienced functional and psychosocial impacts 'Often' or 'Everyday /almost everyday': 40% had oral symptoms, 50% experienced functional limitations, 30% reported impact on social well-being and 10% had an impact on their emotional well-being. The extent scores also indicate that the main impacts concerned functional limitations. CPQ severity scores ranged from 11 to 37, with a mean score of 23.75. The data collection is ongoing.

Conclusion: Orthodontic treatment impacts the quality of life of patients positively.