

Brazilian Oral Research

Print version ISSN 1806-8324

Abstract

[ANDRADE, Fabiana Paula de](#); [ANTUNES, José Leopoldo Ferreira](#) and [DURAZZO, Marcelo Doria](#). Evaluation of the quality of life of patients with oral cancer in Brazil. *Braz. oral res.* [online]. 2006, vol.20, n.4, pp. 290-296. ISSN 1806-8324. doi: 10.1590/S1806-83242006000400002.

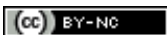
This study performed a field trial of a Portuguese version of the University of Washington quality of life questionnaire (UW-QOL, 3rd version), aiming at appraising its ability to identify different patterns of health-related quality of life of patients with oral cancer in Brazil. Patients (N = 100) were interviewed as they were undergoing treatment for oral squamous cell carcinoma at a large Brazilian hospital ("Hospital das Clínicas", School of Medicine, University of São Paulo). The results were compared based on categories of socio-demographic and clinical characteristics of the patients. At a one-year follow-up, 20 patients had died, and 24 were considered dropouts. The remaining patients accounted for the longitudinal assessment of modifications in the self report of quality of life. Patients with larger tumours and neoplasms in the posterior part of the mouth presented significantly ($p < 0.05$) poorer indications of quality of life. Chewing was the poorest rated domain (35.0/100.0), and presented the highest proportion of complaints both at the baseline and at the follow-up assessments. The questionnaire allowed the identification of important contrasts (while comparing clinical characteristics) and similarities (while comparing socio-demographic status) among subsets of respondents, and it can contribute to reduce the impact of treatments and improve subsequent patient management.

Keywords : Quality of life; Mouth neoplasms; Chewing; Questionnaires; Brazil.

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