

Oral Health Related Quality of Life (OHRQoL) and the Impact Factors for Alzheimer's Patients— A Systematic Review

Yung Ming*, Shou-Jen Lan and Shang-Wei Hsu
Asia University, Taiwan

The objective of this study was to verify the people of Alzheimer's disease (AD) had a lower Oral Health Related Quality of Care (OHRQoL) than non-dementia, and whether their OHRQoL was impacted by oral health negatively. A search was carried out on PubMed, Cochrane Library database, Medline, EBSCO, ProQuest, and EMBASE. The keywords were included dementia (Alzheimer, cognitive impairment), oral(dental), prosthesis (implant) and OHRQoL (GOHAI, OHIP). OHRQoL was investigated as the outcome, and tooth loss, periodontal diseases, dental caries and masticatory efficiency(ME) were exposures. Six studies were included. The sample sizes ranged from 30 to 226 subjects; five studies were cross-sectional designs, while one was nonrandomized, single-center, controlled clinical trial. Two OHRQoL instruments were identified, and the most frequent was the GOHAI (Geriatric Oral Health Assessment Index, n = 5). Another was OHIP-14 (Oral Health Impact Profile-14). Three of 6 studies reported a higher OHRQoL scores to compare AD with control groups, just one study was significant($P < .05$). One study found the more severe of AD, the lower scores of GOHAI. All of studies mentioned the impact factors of OHRQoL, include 3 of six studies found the severity of cognitive impairment, two showed the poor of oral health condition (periodontitis, Gingival bleeding, probing depth >4 mm, and absence of more than 2 molar teeth), and one showed less number of nature teeth. When the patients' cognitive ability was defect, feeling pain and discomfort from the periodontitis, gingival bleeding, missing teeth and decay were reduced, leads to the scores of their OHRQoL may higher than control groups. That was why the patients with AD were thought to require special attention by dental professionals early. And a more holistic approach for the patients of AD, the more completed dental examination may be done regularly complemented by clinical dentists and nurses.

Biography:

Yung Ming is a nurse who had been in nursing work for 30 years and specialized in Emergency, Intensive Care Nursing and Nursing Administration.