

From The Editorial Desk

Quality of Life as recognised by Periodontal Disease

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The presence of periodontal disease is usually related to clinical parameters such as probing depth and attachment level. Little is known about patient perception of other signs such as redness, bleeding on brushing, loss of affected teeth, or persistent halitosis, which are not always recorded in dental records but are highly relevant to patients, as they may considerably reduce quality of life. Despite the recognition that systemic factors can alter the risk to the chronic periodontitis (CP), only recently has evidence begun to emerge, still under investigation, that infections of the oral cavity are related with low quality-of-life (QoL) and are able to influence the occurrence and severity of certain conditions and systemic diseases. Self-perception of health and disease should be regarded as an integral element in routine clinical evaluation of health and subsequent planning of health care. In practice, combining measures of self-perception with traditional measures may help in educating and informing individuals, particularly when planning public health services, interventions, oral health promotion, and community-based oral health strategies. Diseases in general have been

objectively identified through clinical and laboratory data. However, the subjective nature of their effects has not been fully explored. Epidemiological studies have endeavored to determine the impact caused by many diseases on QoL through specific questionnaires assessing the individual's dental history and his behavioral aspects. Despite the recognition that systemic factors can alter the risk to the CP, only recently has evidence begun to emerge, still under investigation, that infections of the oral cavity are related with low QoL, and are able to influence the occurrence and severity of certain conditions and systemic diseases. A different philosophical approach, with co-participation of the patient in the therapeutic process, may be the best way to raise responsibility awareness to obtain healing, as well as developing the perceived need to change the patient's perspective on health in all domains (physical, social/familiar, emotional, and functional).