

Abstract OP129

Assessing Oral Health-Related Quality of Life in Belarusian Orthodontic Patients: Tool Validation

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Aim(s): To test and validate the developed OHIP-16-ORTHO-BY questionnaire for studying the quality of life (QoL) of orthodontic patients.

Methods: The quality of life of 136 orthodontic patients aged 13 to 48 years — including 108 females (79%) and 28 males (21%) — was assessed using both the established OHIP-14-RU and the newly developed OHIP-16-ORTHO-BY questionnaires. Descriptive statistical methods were applied. The reliability of group differences was evaluated using nonparametric tests, including the Kruskal-Wallis test (H), z-test, and the chi-square test (χ^2) with Yates' correction. Test-retest reliability and validity of the new questionnaire were assessed using Spearman's correlation coefficient (ρ).

Results: The Spearman correlation coefficient for test-retest reliability of the OHIP-16-ORTHO-BY was 0.81 ($p < 0.001$), indicating high stability over time. A statistically significant moderate correlation was observed between the total scores of the OHIP-14-RU and OHIP-16-ORTHO-BY ($\rho = 0.65$; $p < 0.001$), supporting the validity of the new instrument.

Conclusions: The OHIP-16-ORTHO-BY demonstrated high reliability and validity in assessing the quality of life in orthodontic patients. The questionnaire is simple to administer, easy to interpret, and time-efficient, making it a practical tool for both clinical and research settings.

Keywords: Oral health, Quality of life, Orthodontics, Validation tool, Belarus

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