Use of Oral Health Index (OHX) in a community screening campaign

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Introduction

A free public dental screening was conducted in a three day oral health campaign in November 2011. The aim of the study is to assess the oral health status of the individual attending the screening campaign using Oral Health Index.

Materials and Methods

Screening of patients was done by dental surgeons using disposable mouth mirror and probes with the patient seated in a portable dental chair. Each screening session lasted for an average of five to ten minutes.

A comprehensive Oral Health Index (OHX) for measuring all diseases in oral cavity was used to summarize oral health status of a person. Components of OHX include felt or expressed need and a measure of normative need of common oral diseases.

A self reported felt need of pain, function and aesthetics constitute the first part of the index.

A question on smoking was also included along with OHX index and a brief intervention of smoking cessation was given to those patients who smoke and willing to quit.

Caries, periodontal, prosthetic, occlusion, soft tissue and wasting diseases were recorded by intra oral clinical examination.

Results

Profile of patients

- <14 years: Males 66, Females 59.5
- 14-25 years: Males 49, Females 42.2
- 26-50 years: Males 81, Females 52.9
- > 50 years: Males 21, Females 60.0

Felt or expressed needs

- Pain: Minor 19%, Major 34%
- Minor decay problem: 19%

Occlusion and toothwear status

- No concern: 30%
- Minor concern: 34%
- Major concern: 36%

Caries, periodontal and prosthetic status

- No decay: 110, Toothwear: 149
- Coronal decay: 149, Root decay: 30
- Extensive decay: 149

Peridontal status

- Healthy: 72, Inflamed: 26
- Calculus: 31, Further investigations: 26

Prosthodontic status

- No prosthetic need: 111, Need full denture: 109
- Partial denture: 110, Repair: 110

Felt or expressed needs

- Felt or expressed needs: Pain
- Felt or expressed needs: Minor decay problem

Use of OHX in measuring oral health status has provided overall treatment needs of patients with ease of measuring and identifying the treatment need.

References