

Assessment of Oral Health Status of the Senior Citizens Basis for Oral Health Program

Alniel Jo C. Manlapig, Jeremae C. Davao and Deborah Cynthia T. Gatchalian
Adventist University of the Philippines

Abstract

Clinically, a lot of elderly suffer from an oral mucosa condition and most lose their teeth from a young age due to unawareness of the importance of oral health. That is an indication that they lack oral health education. This Descriptive study was conducted to assess the oral health status of citizens who are 60 – 87 years old through random sampling in six barangays in Silang, Cavite. It may also serve as a basis for an oral health program for the elderly in relation to the World Health Organization campaign. Mouth examinations were done and questionnaires were accomplished. The Chi-Square method was utilized to cross-tabulate the respondents' demographic profile such as age, gender, occupation and oral health status in terms of oral mucosa condition, dentition and prosthetic status including prosthetic needs. Almost 27% of the respondents who are 60-79 years old clinically showed oral pathologic conditions and they were not being treated by any dentist. Edentulism became a common oral health problem of 72% of the elderly and only 50% of them have existing complete dentures. Further studies are recommended in order to gauge the feasibility of dental missions and local government assistance to implement an oral health education and services program for the underserved elderly citizens.

Keywords: *senior citizens, oral health status*