

Xerostomia reduces quality of life in adults affected by Oligodontia with or without Ectodermal Dysplasia

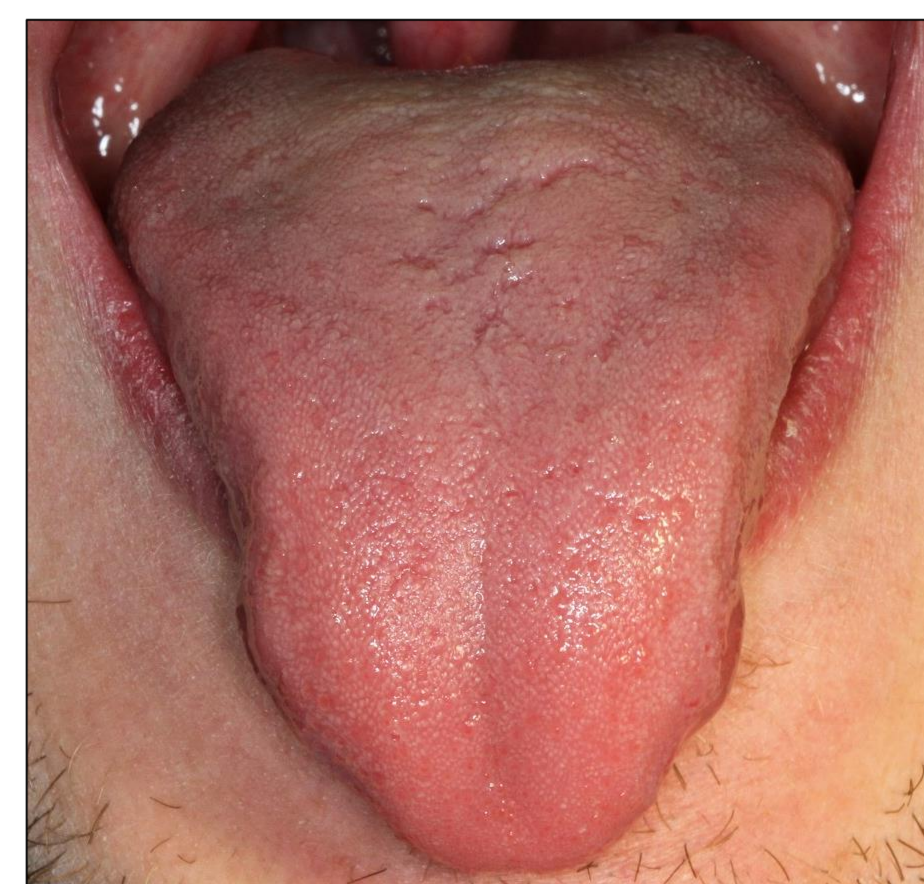
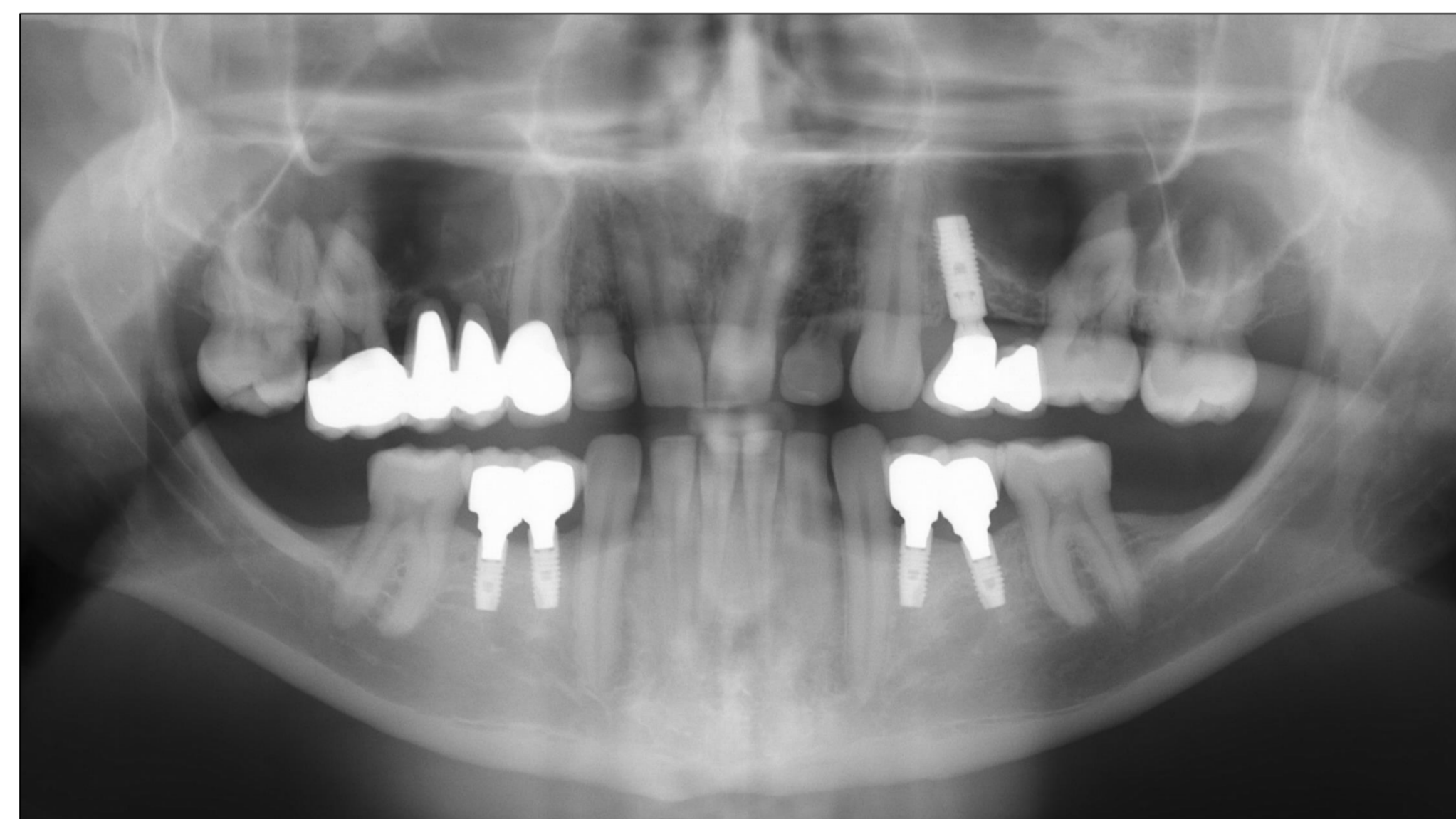
Solfrid Sørgerd Saltnes, RDH, MSc, PhD Candidate^{1,2}, Professor Janicke Liaaen Jensen, Specialist in Oral Surgery and Oral Medicine¹, Rønnaug Sæves DDS, PhD², Hilde Nordgarden DDS, PhD², Professor Amy Østertun Geirdal³
¹Department of Oral Surgery and Oral Medicine, Faculty of Dentistry, University of Oslo, Norway, ²TAKO-centre – National Resource Centre for Oral Health in Rare Diagnoses, Lovisenberg Diaconal Hospital, Oslo, Norway, ³Faculty of Social Sciences, Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences, Norway

Introduction

Oligodontia, absence of six or more teeth (third molars excluded), is a frequent finding in ectodermal dysplasias (EDs). EDs comprise a heterogeneous group of genetic disorders with developmental abnormalities in two or more ectodermal structures (teeth, hair, nails and sweat glands). Reduced salivary secretion has been demonstrated in EDs and in isolated oligodontia.

Aim

To evaluate the effect of xerostomia, defined as the subjective feeling of dry mouth, on quality of life parameters.



Methods

A total of 47 patients, 16-82 years old with isolated oligodontia (26%) or oligodontia with ED (74%), registered at the TAKO-centre, Oslo, Norway were included. The participants completed a self-administered questionnaire on demographics, implications of the diagnosis, and quality of life. The Short-Form Health Survey (SF-36) is summarised in the Physical Component Scale (PCS). A higher PCS score indicates better Health-Related Quality of Life (HRQoL). A higher score on the Oral Health Impact Profile-14 (OHIP-14) indicates poorer Oral Health-Related Quality of Life (OHRQoL).

Figure 1. Differences in physical HRQoL and OHRQoL

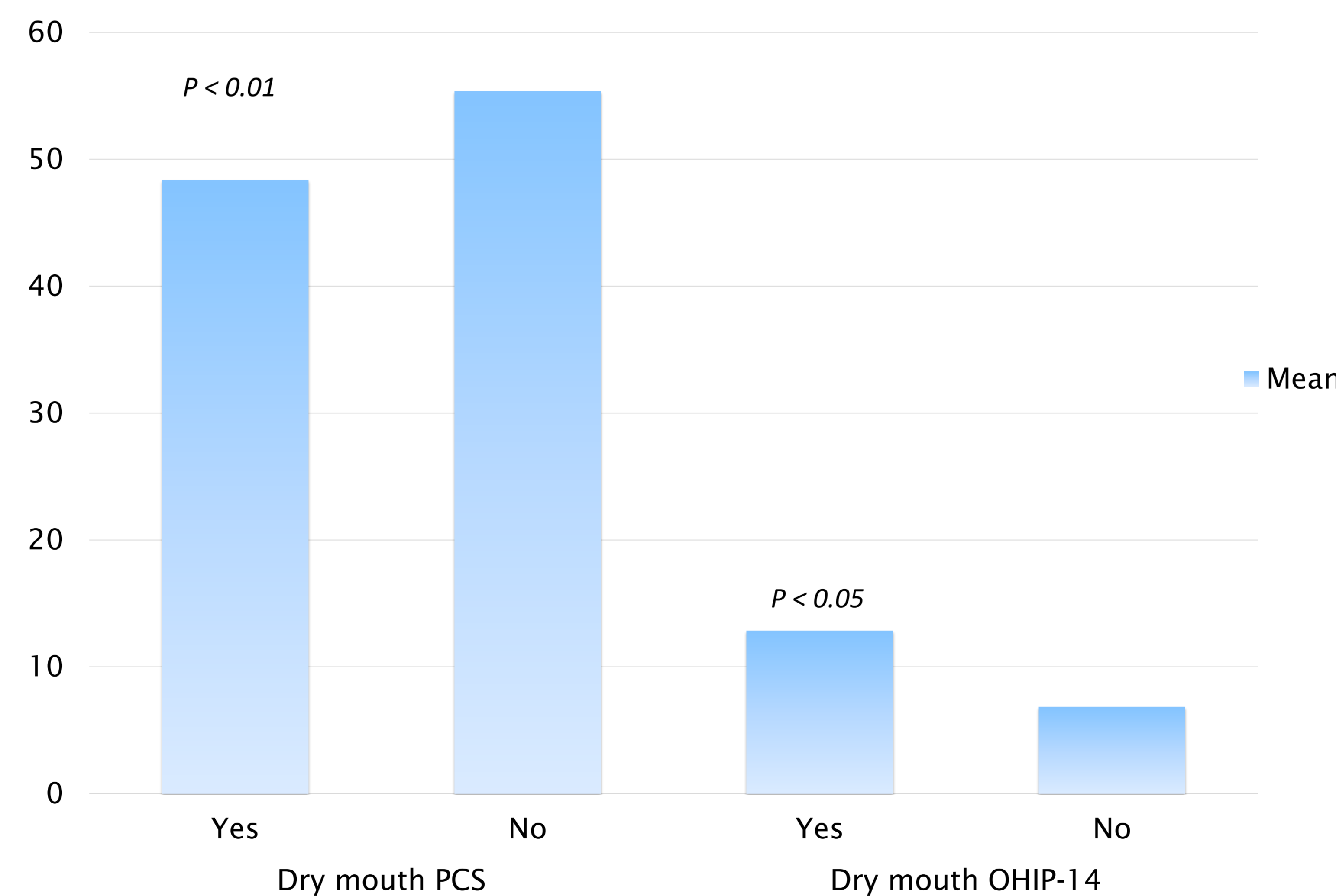


Table 1. ED characteristic signs

	N (%)	Dry skin	Reduced sweat function	Nail defects	Hair defects
Total N= (%)	47 (100)	28 (59)	10 (21)	17 (36)	21 (45)
Xerostomia	13 (28)	11 (85)*	6 (46)**	6 (46)	7 (54)
No xerostomia	34 (72)	17 (50)	4 (12)	11 (32)	14 (41)

Results

Thirteen individuals (28%) reported a subjective feeling of dry mouth. Almost all who reported xerostomia, had additional characteristic of ED. Compared to those without dry mouth, these 13 individuals had significantly reduced physical health-related quality of life (HRQoL) and oral health-related quality of life (OHRQoL).

Conclusion

Individuals affected by oligodontia with ED (12), or without ED (1), who reported xerostomia, had reduced physical HRQoL and OHRQoL when compared to individuals without xerostomia. Thus, dental health personnel should evaluate symptoms and findings of reduced salivary secretion in these patients, and initiate actions to improve oral function and comfort.

References

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- Nordgarden H, Jensen JL, Storhaug K. Oligodontia is associated with extra-oral ectodermal symptoms and low whole salivary flow rates. Oral diseases. 2001;7(4):226-32.

