

OP14 COMPARISON OF QUALITY OF LIFE IN ORTHODONTIC ONCOLOGY PATIENTS NEEDING RAPID AND STANDARD TIME OF TREATMENT

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**AIMS:** At present, the overall survival of childhood cancers is as high as 80 per cent resulting in increasingly common contact of orthodontists with this group of patients. Due to medical requirements some of them need a faster treatment which in turn can influence the quality of life (QoL). Therefore, the aim of this study was to compare QoL and treatment satisfaction in orthodontic oncology patients needing rapid and standard treatment.

**SUBJECTS AND METHOD:** Forty eight cancer patients (30 males, 18 females, median age 19.1 years). Thirty patients were cancer survivors and 18 patients were in maintenance therapy. Inclusion criterion into the rapid treatment group was based on the cancer therapy requirements. The 14-item version of the Oral Health Impact Profile was used to assess the effect of orthodontic treatment on QoL in the study sample. A score of occasionally, often and very often was used to identify patients who had experienced at least some oral health impact. The questionnaire was repeated before, during and after orthodontic treatment. Detailed treatment satisfaction was also measured at the end of the treatment.

**RESULTS:** The average time of treatment in the rapid group was significantly shorter (10.2 versus 17.1 months;  $P < 0.01$ ). The overall QoL improved significantly after treatment (median number of subjects with oral health impact 6 versus 2;  $P < 0.05$ ). However, there was no significant difference in QoL before and after treatment in either both group. The rapid group required significantly more follow-up visits in the given time period with an insignificantly higher impact on oral health QoL during treatment. Male cancer survivors patients reported significantly lower QoL during treatment (38% versus 23%  $P < 0.05$ ). Patients in maintenance therapy had a significantly higher QoL during the adaptation period in both groups.

**CONCLUSION:** The orthodontic results obtained in both groups are comparable despite a significantly shorter duration of treatment. However, orthodontic treatment had an impact on oral health QoL both in the rapid and standard time of treatment of oncologic patients, with an insignificant higher impact in the rapid group. Treatment satisfaction was insignificantly higher in the rapid group.