

OP23 INFORMATION NEEDS IN ORTHOGNATHIC SURGERY – A QUALITATIVE STUDY OF THE PATIENTS' PERSPECTIVE

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AIMS: In the field of orthognathic surgery, patient-centered care has become an increasingly important goal. In this context, it is crucial that orthognathic patients are provided with enough and proper information in order to make evidence-based decisions, not only prior to treatment start, but also throughout the ongoing treatment. Adequate patient information is one of the major keys to patient satisfaction and the foundation of overall treatment success. The objectives of this qualitative study were to identify information needs of patients undergoing combined orthodontic-orthognathic treatment as well as their initial expectations and final satisfaction. Qualitative research methods provide in-depth views of the patient's perspective and expectations, yet have not been intensely used in the field of orthodontics.

SUBJECTS AND METHOD: In-depth, audiorecorded, semi-structured interviews were conducted with 10 adult patients who underwent combined orthodontic-orthognathic treatment. The interviews were carried out at the end of treatment. The study was approved by the responsible Committee of Ethics (University of Cologne, Germany). Among others, the used questions revolved around patient satisfaction with the treatment itself as well as with the information given prior to as well as throughout their treatment. The interviews were transcribed and analysed through Mayring's qualitative content analysis.

RESULTS: A series of codes were identified and combined to seven overarching schemes: 'doctor-patient communication', 'knowledge about own dental and skeletal findings', 'information needs', 'source of information', 'reasons for treatment start', 'perception of own treatment/satisfaction', 'oral health in the future'. Adult patients who underwent orthognathic surgery ranked patient information and doctor-patient communication high in the context of their treatment.

CONCLUSION: The patients' perspective on information transfer prior to and throughout treatment shows both met information needs as well as a lack of information transmission by the doctor, depending on the treatment stage and the type of information given. Further research should lead to providing more patient-focused information in the field of orthognathic surgery, combined with the integration of the professionals' point of view.