1. INTRODUCTION

Dental problems have high prevalence and, like many other diseases, they are affecting various aspects of life: economical, social, physical and psychological. Social implications of oral diseases were often in the shadow of social implications some other medical conditions.

Susan Reisine was the first researcher in the field of social dimensions of dental problems. Reisine compared the work day’s loss as a consequence of various acute conditions and concluded that implications of dental problems can be as serious as social impacts of some other diseases (1). Later, during late eighties and nineties, a large number of indices were developed for assessing social dimensions of dental illness (2). OHIP (Oral Health Impact Profile) is a commonly used questionnaire for assessing Oral Health Related Quality of Life (OHRQoL).

OHIP consists of 49 questions, divided into seven constitutive domains: functional limitations (nine questions), physical pain/discomfort (nine questions), psychological discomfort (five questions), physical disability (nine questions), psychological disability (six questions), social disability (five questions) and handicap (six questions).

1.1. Development of OHIP

English-language version of OHIP was developed in Australia by Gary D. Slade and A. John Spencer. OHIP was presented in 1994 (3). The conceptual framework used for development of OHIP was Locker’s model of oral health based on the International classification of impairments, disabilities and handicaps, Figure 1.

The OHIP questionnaire was translated into many languages (4–9). OHIP must be adapted if used in cultural unique region. For example, there are two OHIP versions in same language that are used in two different countries (10, 11).

OHIP is an important instrument in defining social impacts of oral disorders, in oral health promotion and in evaluation of dental treatment. OHIP can be a part of the medical documentation; it can
be used to estimate results of health services, to evaluate benefits of dental treatment, and to analyze relationship between patient’s benefits of the therapy and its financial cost.

OHIP is not suitable for people with limited cognitive or language skills, for children, and it can not be used in situations when there is no enough time or other conditions to fill out the questionnaire (12).

Some authors concluded that OHIP-49 can not be used for evaluation of dental appearance and aesthetics (13).

Period of time covered by this questionnaire has not been determined by the Australian authors of the OHIP. It can be any period that best suits the researcher.

2. GOAL

The OHIP-49 has never been used in Bosnia and Herzegovina before. The aim of this study was to translate the original English-language version into the one of the languages in Bosnia and Herzegovina, following the guidelines for cross-cultural adaptation and to examine responsiveness of this questionnaire.

Another intention of the present study was to compare quality of life (QoL) in patients who received new dentures, with life quality in patients before therapy. The goal of the study was to compare QoL in patients who received new dentures with QoL in patients who have worn out dentures. The aim of the study was also to find association between:

- time of wearing dentures,
- age of the patient
- and QoL measured by OHIP.

3. MATERIALS AND METHODS

3.1. Instrument

Oral Health Impact Profile is a questionnaire that quantitatively determines impact of oral diseases on oral health related quality of life (3). OHIP has 49 items.

Answers to questions are given in the form of Likert scale with a maximum of 4 points per item (never=0, almost never = 1, sometimes=2, fairly often=3, very often = 4). OHIP-49 is a simple sum of codes.

Total OHIP-49 and sum for each domain indicate the subjective experience of OHRQoL (13). The larger is the sum, the poorer is the quality of life. OHIP can vary from 0 to 169.

3.2. Translation of OHIP-E49

OHIP-BH49, Appendix 1, has been developed translating OHIP-E49 into the Bosnian language by a forward-backward translation method, with assistance of several translators. A specialist in prosthetic dentistry and a certified translator translated the English version of the questionnaire independently. Another translator, laic, translated the German version (OHIP-G53). All three translators were native Bosnian speakers. Translated questionnaires were compared and discussed. After debate, resulting version has been back translated into English by second certified translator and compared to the original. Substantial differences were not observed.

At the end of this phase we had the preliminary version of OHIP-BH49.

This version was applied to the subsample of patients in a form of an interview, to check the comprehensibility of the language used in the questionnaire.

3.3. Study sample and procedures

Sample consisted of patients who visited The Department of Prosthetic Dentistry at the Health Center "Dom zdravlja Stari Grad" (Public Institution Health Center of Sarajevo Canton), for a period of about 6 months. The aim of their visit was to make a new denture or to repair broken one. General information (year of birth), and denture data (type and time of wearing) were taken after the clinical examination.

Methods of administration were: printed questionnaire and face-to-face interview.

Three measurements were made:
- Before getting new dentures,
- 7-14 days after insertion of dentures,
- When a patient brought worn out (broken) dentures.

Exclusion criteria were:
- Broken dentures less than two years old, and
- Missed answers in 5 or more items per questionnaire or two (and more) in a domain.

For each of 49 questions, study participants were asked to declare how much often they experienced described problem in the past few weeks (first and third measurement), and in the last 2-4 days (second measurement).

T-test, ANOVA test and Chi-square test were used for data analyses.

The significance level was p=0.05 for all tests.

4. RESULTS

First group of participants (N=32, 47% females) consisted of patients who wanted to replace old dentures or to make a new one. Second group of patients (N=35, 54% females) came in order to repair their broken dentures. In the first group of patients, seven of 32 wore dentures 2-5 years, 20 wore dentures longer than 5 years and 5 patients previously had no dentures. 14 of them were older than 50 years. In the second group of patients, 9 of 35 wore dentures shorter than 5 years. 25 of them were older than 50 years.

4.1. Missing data and percentage of correctly completed questionnaires

Seven patients were excluded due to missing data. Two of them wanted new prostheses and five came to repair their dentures. In total, we had 89.6% correctly completed questionnaires. Face-to-face interview resulted with 100% completely filled questionnaires.

4.2. Linguistic and cross-cultural adaptation

During the face-to-face interview on a subsample of patients (N=25), subjects had minor difficulties in understanding of some items. To make questionnaire more comprehensive, we made adjustments in four questions:

- Q4: „osjećaj da su utjecali na vaš izgled” replaced with „negativno utjecali na vaš izgled”
- Q14: „bolovi u zubu” replaced with „imali zubobolju”
- Q17: “bolna mjesta” replaced with “bolna mjesta (takće)”, because the item refers to apahtes,
- Q27: “ne možete dobro čistiti zube”; new item is „očetkati zube”
- Q41: „teže komunicirali sa drugim ljudima” replaced with „teže izlazili na kraj sa drugim ljudima”

The final OHIP-BH49 version was completed after those
adjustments, Appendix 1.

4.3. Statistical analysis performed with the T-test for patients with new dentures

QoL in patients was much better after receiving new dentures. Patients with new dentures showed much better QoL than patients with worn out dentures, Chart 1.

Statistical analyses performed with the T-test revealed significant differences for total OHIP, and for each of the seven domains (p<0.001), Table 1 and 2.

Statistical analysis performed with the T-test for time of wearing dentures

We compared QoL of patients with dentures less than 5 years old to the QoL with worn dentures older than 5 years. Patients who wore dentures longer than five years had better QoL.

Statistical analysis performed with the T-test revealed significant differences for two domains in our first measurement and for the same number of domains in third measurement. In every measurement, older dentures showed significantly better QoL in one domain, and newer dentures showed significantly better QoL in another. For total OHIP, no significant differences were found, Table 3.

Statistical analysis performed with the ANOVA-test for time of wearing dentures Statistical analysis with ANOVA in our first measurement revealed significant differences in OHIP values between patients without dentures, with dentures less than 5 years old and with dentures older than 5 years for total OHIP and for three domains (p<0.05), Table 4. ANOVA test of differences in OHIP values among patients who wore dentures less than 5 years, longer than 5 years and who had no dentures before receiving one.

Statistical analysis performed with the Chi-square test for time of wearing dentures. Chi-square tests for time of wearing dentures in a sample of 55 patients who had dentures before therapy or who had worn out dentures find no significant differences (Pearson’s chi square = 5.48, p = 0.05).

4.4. Statistical analysis performed with the T-test for patients’ age

Before and after receiving new dentures, patients older than 50 years had higher total OHIP and higher values in majority of domains. In our third measurement, patients younger than 50 had higher total OHIP and higher values in four domains.

T-test revealed significant differences in OHIP values in two domains in our first measurement and in one domain in our second measurement. In third measurement there were no significant differences. Older patients had poorer QoL in all domains with significant differences.

We had no significant differences for total OHIP, Table 5.

5. DISCUSSION

In our study, patients with new dentures showed significantly better QoL compared to pre-treatment period and compared with patients with worn out dentures. Patients’ age and time of wearing dentures had no significant impact on QoL with dentures. Correlation between oral health conditions and life quality is scientifically more and more interesting. Various instruments have been

### Table 1. T-test of differences in OHIP-BH49 scores between patients with new and worn out dentures

| Domain          | Mean Score New Dentures | Mean Score Worn Dentures | Difference t(df=58) | P       |
|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|---------|
| OHIP            | 12.40                   | 19.07                    | -6.67               | 0.001   |
| Functional limit | 3.47                    | 5.83                     | -2.36               | 0.02    |
| Physical limit  | 3.27                    | 5.83                     | -2.56               | 0.02    |
| Psychological limit | 3.27                  | 5.83                     | -2.56               | 0.02    |
| Social limit    | 3.27                    | 5.83                     | -2.56               | 0.02    |
| Handicap        | 3.27                    | 5.83                     | -2.56               | 0.02    |

### Table 2. Comparison of OHIP-BH49 values before and after therapy

| Domain          | Mean Score Before Therapy | Mean Score After Therapy | Difference t(df=29) | P       |
|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|---------|
| OHIP            | 12.40                     | 19.07                    | -6.67               | 0.001   |
| Functional limit | 3.47                     | 5.83                     | -2.36               | 0.02    |
| Physical limit  | 3.27                     | 5.83                     | -2.56               | 0.02    |
| Psychological limit | 3.27                   | 5.83                     | -2.56               | 0.02    |
| Social limit    | 3.27                     | 5.83                     | -2.56               | 0.02    |
| Handicap        | 3.27                     | 5.83                     | -2.56               | 0.02    |
developed in order to identify the way dental problems (problems with teeth, oral cavity, jaws and dentures) interfere with people’s daily lives (3). Most questionnaires have been produced in English-speaking countries, although interest in developing their own instruments has arisen in other countries. The aim of this study was to make conditions for use of OHIP-49 in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the present study, the original English-language Oral Health Impact Profile was translated into the Bosnian language, mostly following the international guidelines for linguistic and cross-cultural adaptation of self-reported measures (14, 15).

Where the international guidelines suggest a small-scale field test to be performed prior to the implementation of a new instrument, comprehensibility testing of the preliminary version of OHIP-BH49 was done during the application of the questionnaire to the subsample (part of the main study group, N=25). No pilot-study was performed before the main study. During the interview, however, we used to ask subjects about difficulties in understanding items or frequencies. Despite this minor departure from the recommended procedure, we have confidence in the quality of the translation process, because items that showed signs of misunderstanding were changed right away (item was applied to the next interviewed person). We had to make minor changes in only four questions.

The patients’ compliance was good. Even though the OHIP-BH49 consists of many questions, most patients seemed willing to make a statement about the perceived negative effects of their dental condition. The questionnaire’s length seems not to be a factor that will interfere with the collection of the OHIP-BH data. In some previous studies, code from every answer was multiplied by the importance coefficient, in order to get the OHIP final score (16, 17). In present study, question coefficients were not determined or used, because they did not result in improvements of measurement properties (17).

Our study demonstrated that new dentures are associated with better OHQoL. Many authors have concluded that getting new dentures would improve QoL. Significant differences were found in all of seven domains or in a

| Table 3. Multiple comparison of OHIP-49 for time of wearing dentures using T-test. |
| --- |
| **OHIP** | N | Mean | SD | t | P |
| **Time of wearing dentures** | before | worn | before | worn | before | worn | before | worn | before | worn |
| Functional limitation (9) | 7 | 34.43 | 101.89 | 0.049 | 7.055 | 1.173 | 1.209 | 0.253 | 0.297 |
| less than 5 years | 7 | 31.04 | 26.37 | 0.050 | 7.131 | 1.173 | 1.209 | 0.253 | 0.297 |
| older than 5 years | 18 | 21.07 | 14.27 | 0.216 | 2.224 | 1.345 | 2.044 | 0.192 | 0.055 |
| Physical discomfort (9) | 7 | 14.00 | 18.74 | 2.160 | 2.224 | 1.345 | 2.044 | 0.192 | 0.055 |
| less than 5 years | 7 | 11.11 | 18.11 | 2.160 | 2.224 | 1.345 | 2.044 | 0.192 | 0.055 |
| older than 5 years | 18 | 17.50 | 20.14 | 2.372 | 2.383 | 2.160 | 2.224 | 1.345 | 2.044 |
| Psychological discomfort (5) | 7 | 7.26 | 8.11 | 2.160 | 2.224 | 1.345 | 2.044 | 0.192 | 0.055 |
| less than 5 years | 7 | 6.11 | 8.11 | 2.160 | 2.224 | 1.345 | 2.044 | 0.192 | 0.055 |
| older than 5 years | 18 | 8.77 | 11.64 | 2.160 | 2.224 | 1.345 | 2.044 | 0.192 | 0.055 |
| Physical disability (5) | 7 | 7.11 | 10.29 | 3.068 | 3.208 | 2.372 | 2.583 | 1.988 | 2.084 |
| less than 5 years | 7 | 6.11 | 10.29 | 3.068 | 3.208 | 2.372 | 2.583 | 1.988 | 2.084 |
| older than 5 years | 18 | 8.77 | 11.64 | 2.160 | 2.224 | 1.345 | 2.044 | 0.192 | 0.055 |
| Psychological disability (5) | 7 | 17.27 | 17.22 | 3.068 | 3.208 | 2.372 | 2.583 | 1.988 | 2.084 |
| less than 5 years | 7 | 16.11 | 17.22 | 3.068 | 3.208 | 2.372 | 2.583 | 1.988 | 2.084 |
| older than 5 years | 18 | 18.00 | 21.44 | 3.712 | 3.930 | 2.372 | 2.583 | 1.988 | 2.084 |

**Table 4. ANOVA test of differences in OHIP values among patients who wore dentures less than 5 years, longer than 5 years and who had no dentures before receiving one.**

**Table 5. Multiple comparison of differences in OHIP values between patients younger/older than 50 years using T-Test.**

**MSM, 2011; 23(4): 214-220 • Original paper**
Quality of Life with Removable Dentures

majority of domains (10, 13). In the present study, patients completed OHIP questionnaire 7-14 days after the placement of new dentures.

According to the available literature, OHIP is changing immediately after obtaining prosthesis. These changes, as the time goes by, seem to be much slower (18, 19).

Higher values of total OHIP, but not significantly, were recorded in patients older than 50 years. Older patients had worse QoL in all domains with statistical significance. In one study, with increasing age of subjects for 10 years, mean OHIP score increased by 1.7 units (20). Many researchers concluded that time of wearing dentures and the age of the patient have no impact on the quality of life (4, 5, 9, 19, 20).

6. CONCLUSIONS

- Patients with new dentures had significantly better QoL compared with the QoL in subjects with worn dentures.
- QoL in patients 7-14 days after insertion of new prosthesis was significantly better compared with QoL before therapy.
- Patients who needed dentures, and previously had no dentures, showed significantly worse QoL compared with patients who had old dentures before receiving the new one.
- Time of wearing dentures had no significant impact on QoL. Patients who wore dentures longer than five years had better QoL but the difference was not significant.
- Patients’ age did not have significant effect on the QoL. Older patients had slightly poorer QoL.
- A part of the validation process of OHIP-49 for Bosnia and Herzegovina has been done.

The initial steps towards validation of OHIP-49 in B&H setting, conducted in present research, were: Translation of OHIP into Bosnian language using the forward-backward translation technique. Product was the preliminary Bosnia-Herzegovina version of the OHIP-49.

Evaluation of language and cross-cultural adaptation: OHIP was applied in a form of the interview to a subsample of patients (N=25). Some items were adjusted to clarify the questions. Testing responsiveness of the OHIP-BH49. Responsiveness was tested on 32 patients in a treatment demand (new dentures). Patients completed the OHIP questionnaire twice, before and after treatment. Mean score difference was significant. Before considering OHIP-BH49 as a suitable instrument for assessment of oral health quality of life in Bosnia and Herzegovina, we must evaluate the properties of OHIP-BH49 as a measuring instrument in a separate research.

Acknowledgements

Author is thankful to Ms. Selma Hadžipasić for translation of the German version of OHIP.

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Appendix 1.

OHIP-BH49 (The Bosnia and Herzegovina version of The Oral Health Impact Profile)*

Ponuđeni odgovori su: 0=nikad, 1=skoro nikad, 2=ponekad, 3=prilično često, 4=veoma često
Molim zaokružite broj pored odgovora s obzirom na to koliko ste često iskustili opisanu poteškoću u vremenskom periodu od ....

Ograničenje funkcije

Da li ste
1. imali poteškoće prilikom žvakanja hrane zbog problema sa Zubima, usnom šupljinom ili protetskim nadomjescima?
2. imali poteškoće prilikom izgovaranja riječi zbog problema sa Zubima, usnom šupljinom ili protetskim nadomjescima?
3. primijetili da neki Vaš Zub ne izgleda kako treba?
4. imali osjećaj da su problemi sa Zubima, usnom šupljinom ili protetskim nadomjescima negativno utjecali na Vaš izgled?
5. imali utisak neubojčajenog, ustajalog mirisa iz usta koji je bio uzrokovan problemima sa Zubima, usnom šupljinom ili protetskim nadomjescima?
6. imali osjećaj da Vam se osjet okusa izmijenio zbog problema sa Zubima, usnom šupljinom ili protetskim nadomjescima?
7. primijetili da se hrana zadržavala tokom jela na Zubima ili protetskim nadomjescima?
8. imali osjećaj da Vam se probava pogoršala zbog problema sa Zubima, usnom šupljinom ili protetskim nadomjescima?
9. imali osjećaj da Vam protetski nadomjesci loše nalijezu?

Tjelesna nelagodnost

Da li
10. ste imali osjećaj dugotrajne boli u ustima?
11. ste imali osjećaj bolne čeljusti?
12. ste imali glavobolju zbog problema sa Zubima, usnom šupljinom ili protetskim nadomjescima?
13. ste imali osjećaj osjetljivih Zuba, npr. pri uzimanju hladne ili vruće hrane ili pića?
14. ste imali Zubobolju?
15. ste imali bolove u Zubnom mesu?
16. ste imali nelagodnosti pri konzumiranju neke hrane zbog problema sa Zubima, usnom šupljinom ili protetskim nadomjescima?
17. ste imali bolna mjesta (tačke) u ustima?
18. su Vas žuljale proteze?

Psihološka nelagodnost

Da li
19. ste bili zabrinuti zbog problema sa Zubima, usnom šupljinom ili protetskim nadomjescima?
20. Vas je brinulo što drugi ljudi misle o Vama zbog problema sa Zubima, usnom šupljinom ili protetskim nadomjescima?
21. Vam je bilo teško zbog problema sa Zubima, usnom šupljinom ili protetskim nadomjescima?
22. Vam je bilo nelagodno zbog izgleda Vaših Zuba ili protetskog nadomjeska?
23. ste bili napeti zbog problema sa Zubima, usnom šupljinom ili protetskim nadomjescima?

Tjelesna onesposobljenost

Da li
24. ste nerazgovjeto govorili zbog problema sa Zubima, usnom šupljinom ili protetskim nadomjescima?
25. su drugi ljudi pogrešno razumjeli neke Vaše riječi zbog problema sa Zubima, usnom šupljinom ili protetskim nadomjescima?
26. ste imali utisak da je hrana lošijeg ukusa zbog problema sa Zubima, usnom šupljinom ili protetskim nadomjescima?
27. Vam se desilo da ne možete dobro očetkati svoje zube zbog problema sa Zubima, usnom šupljinom ili protetskim nadomjescima?
28. ste morali izbjegavati neku vrstu hrane zbog problema sa Zubima, usnom šupljinom ili protetskim nadomjescima?
29. Vam je ishrana postala nedovoljna zbog problema sa zubima, usnom šupljinom ili protetskim nadomjescima?
30. Vam se desilo da niste mogli jesti svojim protezama zbog problema sa njima?
31. Vam se desilo da ste izbjegavali nasnimati se zbog problema sa zubima, usnom šupljinom ili protetskim nadomjescima?
32. Vam se desilo da ste moralni prekinuti obrok zbog problema sa zubima, usnom šupljinom ili protetskim nadomjescima?

**Psihološka onesposobljenost**

Da li Vam se desilo da

33. Da li Vam se desilo da Vam je prekinut san zbog problema sa zubima, usnom šupljinom ili protetskim nadomjescima?
34. Da li Vam se desilo da ste bili uzemljeni zbog problema sa zubima, usnom šupljinom ili protetskim nadomjescima?
35. Da li Vam se desilo da ste imali poteškoću opustiti se zbog problema sa zubima, usnom šupljinom ili protetskim nadomjescima?
36. Da li Vam se desilo ste bili potiskani ili depresivni zbog problema sa zubima, usnom šupljinom ili protetskim nadomjescima?
37. Da li Vam se desilo da se teško koncentrirali zbog problema sa zubima, usnom šupljinom ili protetskim nadomjescima?
38. Da li Vam se desilo da ste osjećali postižen zbog problema sa zubima, usnom šupljinom ili protetskim nadomjescima?

**Socijalna onesposobljenost**

Da li

39. Vam se desilo da ste izbjegavali izaći zbog problema sa zubima, usnom šupljinom ili protetskim nadomjescima?
40. ste bili manje tolerantni u odnosima sa bračnim partnerom ili članovima porodice zbog problema sa zubima, usnom šupljinom ili protetskim nadomjescima?
41. ste uopšte težite izlaziti na kraji sa drugim ljudima zbog problema sa zubima, usnom šupljinom ili protetskim nadomjescima?
42. Vam se desilo da ste bili razdražljivi prema drugim ljudima zbog problema sa zubima, usnom šupljinom ili protetskim nadomjescima?
43. ste imali poteškoće u obavljanju odbićenih poslova zbog problema sa zubima, usnom šupljinom ili protetskim nadomjescima?

**Hendikep**

Da li ste

44. imali utisak da Vam se cjelokupno zdravlje pogoršalo zbog problema sa zubima, usnom šupljinom ili protetskim nadomjescima?
45. pretrpjeli neki finansijski gubitak koji je bio u vezi sa problemom sa zubima, usnom šupljinom ili protetskim nadomjescima?
46. osjetili da Vam društvo drugih ljudi nije tako ugodno kao ranije zbog problema sa zubima, usnom šupljinom ili protetskim nadomjescima?
47. imali utisak da je Vaš život sve skupa manje zadovoljavajući zbog problema sa zubima, usnom šupljinom ili protetskim nadomjescima?
48. bili potpuno nesposobni funkcionirati zbog problema sa zubima, usnom šupljinom ili protetskim nadomjescima?
49. iskusili da ne radite nešto svojim odbićenim, punim kapacitetom zbog problema sa zubima, usnom šupljinom ili protetskim nadomjescima?

*The English version of OHIP-49 is available elsewhere (3).*