



## PERCEPTION OF THE PERIODONTITIS PATIENTS ON ORAL HEALTH-RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE (OHQOL): DOES SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS INFLUENCE ON IT? A PILOT STUDY AMONG THE PATIENTS FROM POLYCLINIC, KULLIYAH OF DENTISTRY, INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY, MALAYSIA

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### Objectives

To investigate the socio-demographic influences on OHQoL perceived by periodontitis patients.

### Materials and method

A cross-sectional descriptive and analytical study was conducted among 80 chronic periodontitis patients. The Malaysian version of OHQoL-UK index was applied to explore the patients' perception on OHQoL in terms of four (symptoms, physical, psychological and social) aspects. The perception level was classified into no, mild, moderate and severe effect based on Likert scale answer of OHQoL index. Socio-demographic and education status of the patients were identified by a questionnaire. A cross analysis was done to infer the influences of socio-demographic and education status of patients on their perceived OHQoL stratified by severity of periodontal health.

### Results

Of 80 patients, 56% suffered severe periodontitis, followed by moderate (34%) and mild (10%). The negative effects of periodontitis on patients' life quality were found across the four aspects assessed. Age group influence on perceived OHQoL was significantly found among moderate and severe periodontitis patients ( $p < 0.05$ ). There were some variations in patients' perceived OHQoL in accordance with gender, race, educational and family income status; these variations were not statistically significant ( $p > 0.05$ ) regardless of disease severity.

### Conclusion

Periodontitis had an impact on quality of life and the most prevalent negative aspects were found in patients with severe chronic periodontitis. This study could not provide the significance influences of socio-demographic and educational status of the periodontitis patients except age factor on their OHQoL. A further study with adequate sample size needs to be carried out with more socio-demographic variables (occupation and marital status).

## ORAL MELANOMA: A CASE REPORT

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### Introduction

To increase the awareness of health practitioners to the entity known as Oral Melanoma (OM), a patient with loco-regionally advanced OM seen at our clinic is presented here. Oral melanoma is a rarely encountered but highly aggressive malignancy that accounts for around 0.5% of all oral malignancies. The aetiopathogenesis of this lesion is still relatively obscure as compared to cutaneous melanoma.

### Case report

A 42-year-old male was referred to the Oral Medicine Clinic for pigmented lesions over the maxillary denture bearing area. The patient has had an upper full denture for the past 10 years. He started noticing that the long-standing pigmented lesion in his mouth had started to increase in size and was spreading. Upon clinical examination, there were widespread-pigmented lesions over the palate and right alveolar ridge. The patient underwent an incisional biopsy of the pigmented nodular lesion over the alveolar ridge. The histological findings were found to be consistent with a mucosal malignant melanoma.

### Comments

Early lesions of OM may mimic other oral lesions and there are some cases of OM that are believed to arise from pre-existing pigmented lesions. Unfortunately, most patients with OM usually present at an advanced stage resulting in the prognosis for patients with OM being rather poor, with a 5-year survival rate of approximately 15%. Health practitioners need to be conscious of the possibility of a pigmented oral lesion being an oral melanoma as early detection and biopsy of OM will invariably decrease mortality and morbidity.



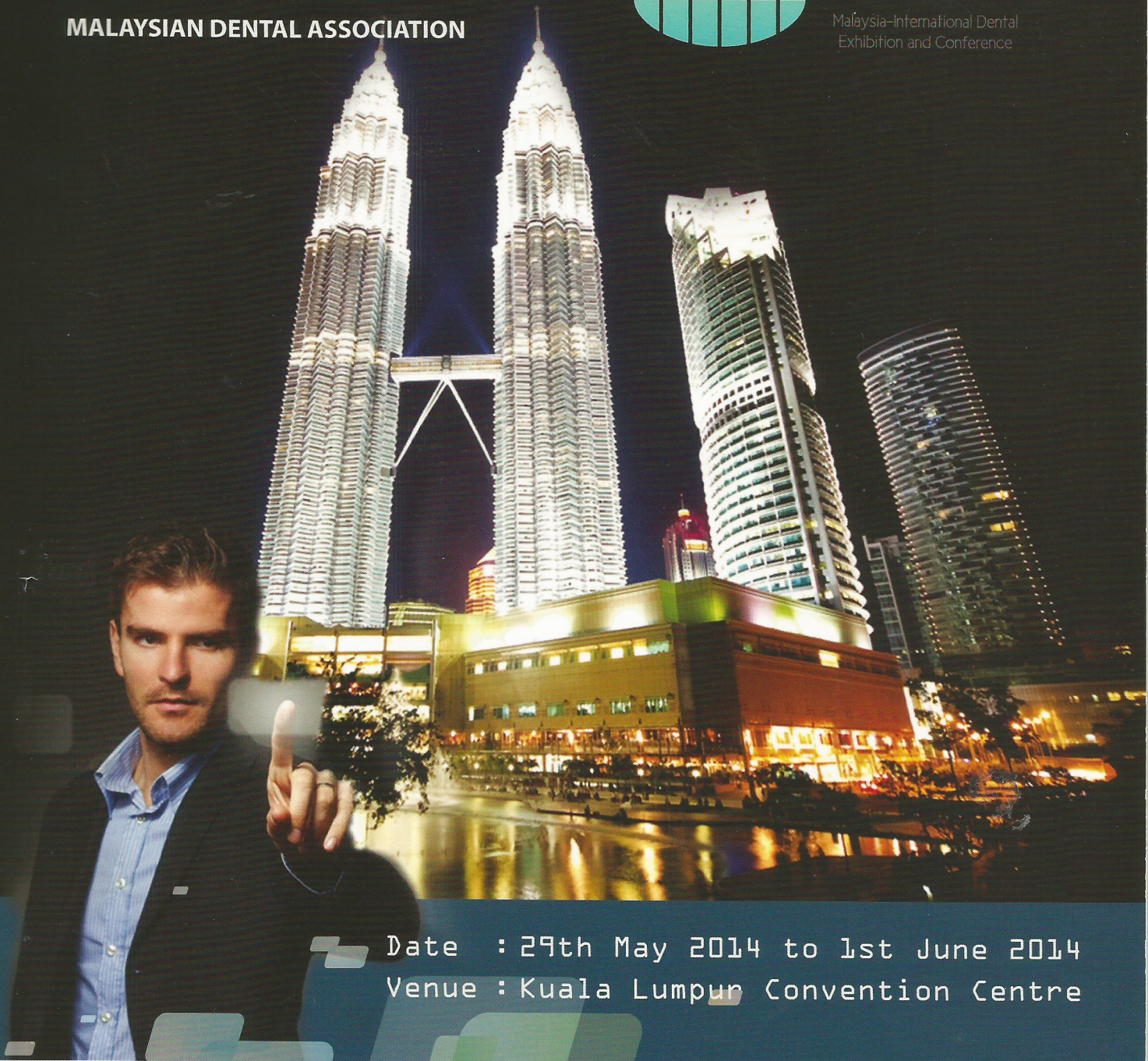


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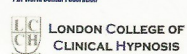


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