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Determinants for Oral-Health-Related Quality of Life among Danish adults

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Objectives
Identify and analyze determinants for oral-health-related quality of life among adults admitted to a Danish research program on general health and lifestyle (DANHES 2007-2008)

Materials and methods
- Study population: 4402 volunteers invited among participants of main study (n=18065) in 12 Danish cities.
- Age 18-96 years (average 54)
- Structured interviews (from main study and dental study) and clinical oral examination
- Oral-health-related quality of life measured by a 10 item index
- Non-parametric statistical methods, chi-square, simple and multivariate logistic regression

Results
- 33 persons were edentulous, 7 % wore dentures, mean DMFS = 62
- 88% were regular users of dental care
- 24 % reported oral-health-related quality of life problems
- 6 % reported score of 3 or more oral-health-related quality of life problems (maximum score = 30)

Most frequent problems because of appearance of teeth (or dentures):
- Feeling embarrassed (13 %)
- Feeling tense (9 %)
- Avoid smiling/laughing (6 %)
- Difficulties with eating food due to mouth or teeth problems 9 %

Conclusions
- Regular dental visits and high number of natural teeth are determinants for high level of oral-health-related quality of life
- Untreated caries, wearing dentures and high caries experience are determinants for reduced oral-health-related quality of life

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