

The Oral Symptom Assessment Scale (OSAS): criterion validation with the EORTC QLQ-OH15 and reliability testing

Journal : Supportive Care in Cancer

Authors

Dr Niamh Cleary

Trinity College Dublin, Our Lady's Hospice Dublin

ORCHID ID: 0000-0001-7446-3321

Prof Andrew Davies

Trinity College Dublin, University College Dublin & Our Lady's Hospice Dublin

ORCHID ID: 0000-0003-4207-4799

Prof Suzanne Guerin

University College Dublin

Norah Fagan

Our Lady's Hospice Dublin

Elaine Hyland

Our Lady's Hospice Dublin

Corresponding author

Niamh Cleary

clearynm@tcd.ie

SYMPTOM	NUMBER OF PATIENTS n = 54	SEVERITY			
		Slight	Moderate	Severe	Very severe
Dry mouth	42 (77.8%)	7 (16.7%)	16 (38.1%)	12 (28.6%)	7 (16.7%)
Mouth discomfort / pain	17 (31.5%)	3 (17.6%)	9 (52.9%)	4 (23.5%)	1 (5.9%)
Lip discomfort	24 (44.4%)	10 (41.7%)	7 (29.2%)	6 (25%)	1 (4.2%)
Cracking of lips	15 (27.8%)	3 (20%)	5 (33.3%)	7 (46.7%)	0 (0%)
Cracking of corner of mouth	14 (25.9%)	4 (28.6%)	3 (21.4%)	6 (42.9%)	1 (7.1%)
Taste disturbance	21 (38.9%)	3 (14.3%)	8 (38.1%)	7 (33.3%)	3 (14.3%)
Difficulty chewing	18 (33.3%)	2 (11.1%)	7 (38.9%)	5 (27.8%)	4 (22.2%)
Difficulty swallowing	15 (27.8%)	6 (40%)	3 (20%)	4 (26.7%)	2 (13.3%)
Difficulty speaking	17 (31.5%)	6 (35.3%)	8 (47.1%)	3 (17.6%)	0 (0%)
“Dirty mouth”	25 (46.3%)	5 (20%)	9 (36%)	7 (28%)	4 (16%)
Coating of tongue	17 (31.5%)	4 (23.5%)	5 (29.4%)	3 (17.6%)	5 (29.4%)
Bad breath	7 (13%)	1 (14.3%)	4 (57.1%)	0 (0%)	2 (28.6%)
Toothache / pain in teeth	5 (9.3)	1 (20)	4 (80)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Sensitivity of teeth	6 (11.1)	3 (50)	2 (33.3)	0 (0)	1 (16.7)
Jagged teeth	12 (22.2)	4 (33.3)	7 (58.3)	0 (0)	1 (8.3)
Denture fitting problems	2 (3.7)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (100)	0 (0)
Bleeding from mouth	1 (1.9)	1 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Burning sensation in mouth	7 (13)	3 (42.9)	2 (28.6)	0 (0)	2 (28.6)
Altered sensation in mouth	3 (5.6)	1 (33.3)	1 (33.3)	0 (0)	1 (33.3)
Ulcers in mouth	3 (5.6)	1 (33.3)	2 (66.7)	0 (0)	0 (0)

Table 1 – Severity of oral symptoms (OSAS data)

SYMPTOM	NUMBER OF PATIENTS n = 54	FREQUENCY			
		Rarely	Occasionally	Frequently	Almost constantly
Dry mouth	42 (77.8%)	7 (16.7%)	11 (26.2%)	10 (23.8%)	14 (33.3%)
Mouth discomfort/pain	17 (31.5%)	2 (11.8%)	3 (17.6%)	8 (47.1%)	4 (23.5%)
Lip discomfort	24 (44.4%)	9 (37.5%)	5 (20.8%)	5 (20.8%)	5 (20.8%)
Cracking of lips	15 (27.8%)	4 (26.7%)	4 (26.7%)	4 (26.7%)	3 (20%)
Cracking of corner of mouth	14 (25.9%)	3 (21.4%)	3 (21.4%)	3 (21.4%)	5 (35.7%)
Taste disturbance	21 (38.9%)	6 (28.6%)	2 (9.5%)	5 (23.8%)	8 (38.1%)
Difficulty chewing	18 (33.3%)	2 (11.1%)	4 (22.2%)	3 (16.7%)	9 (50%)
Difficulty swallowing	15 (27.8%)	6 (40%)	4 (26.7%)	1 (6.7%)	4 (26.7%)
Difficulty speaking	17 (31.5%)	4 (23.5%)	7 (41.2%)	4 (23.5%)	2 (11.8%)
“Dirty mouth”	25 (46.3%)	5 (20%)	7 (28%)	7 (28%)	6 (24%)
Coating of tongue	17 (31.5%)	5 (29.4%)	1 (5.9%)	3 (17.6%)	8 (47.1%)
Bad breath	7 (13%)	0 (0%)	2 (28.6%)	2 (28.6%)	3 (42.9%)
Toothache/pain in teeth	5 (9.3%)	1 (20%)	2 (40%)	1 (20%)	1 (20%)
Sensitivity of teeth	6 (11.1%)	4 (66.7%)	0 (0%)	1 (16.7%)	1 (16.7%)
Jagged teeth	12 (22.2%)	1 (8.3%)	3 (25%)	1 (8.3%)	7 (58.3%)
Denture fitting problems	2 (3.7%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (100%)
Bleeding from mouth	1 (1.9%)	1 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Burning sensation in mouth	7 (13%)	4 (57.1%)	1 (14.3%)	1 (14.3%)	1 (14.3%)
Altered sensation in mouth	3 (5.6%)	0 (0%)	1 (33.3%)	2 (66.7%)	0 (0%)
Ulcers in mouth	3 (5.6%)	1 (33.3%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (66.7%)

Table 2 – Frequency of oral symptoms (OSAS data)