**ORAL HEALTH RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE ELDERLY**

**IN NINH KIEU DISTRICT**

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**Abstract** With the aging status, oral health and general health are interrelated in the elderly. Oral health problem and tooth loss have also been linked with increased of poor mental health, affected on quality of life. The study aimed to assess the relationship between quality of life and the oral health status as well as general characteristics of the elderly living in Ninh Kieu district, Can Tho city. *Methods:* A cross-sectional survey was undertaken, following the guidelines of WHO: “Oral health surveys - Basic methods, 1997” and The Vietnamese version of the Oral Health Impact Profile (OHIP-14VN). Data on 188 subjects aged 60 and over, living in Ninh Kieu District, Vietnam for at least one year, and willing to participate in the study and give consent were collected*. Results*: The result of this study showed that physical pain was the most prevalent OHRQOL decreasing (1.5878 ± 1.0439), followed by psychological discomfort (1.258 ± .98719). In contrast, social disability was the least dominant factor that impact on OHRQOL (66284 ± .4574). The elderly those who had more teeth ≥20 teeth had lower OHIP 14 score than those with fewer teeth <20. The table also presented the remaining teeth had a middle, negative monotonic correlation with mean OHIP (r =0.17, n = 188, p <0 .05). *Conclusion:* This finding shows that remaining teeth is the most important oral health related factor that affects quality of life in the elderly. Besides, general health status also comes as the secondary meaningful demographic issue for oral health related factor. Therefore, these factors must be addressed when planning the oral health intervention for this population.

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**Keywords:** tooth loss, missing teeth, oral health status, oral health related quality of life, OHIP-14.

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