

Review Form 3

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| Journal Name: | Journal of Advances in Medicine and Medical Research |
| Manuscript Number: | Ms_JAMMR_129222 |
| Title of the Manuscript: | THE INFLUENCE OF ORAL HEALTH ON THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE ELDERLY |
| Type of the Article | Original article |

General guidelines for the Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound. To know the complete guidelines for the Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

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PART 1: Comments

| | Reviewer's comment | Author's Feedback <i>(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i> |
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| Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part. | The topic is necessary and relevant to the scientific community, as it addresses dental care for elderly individuals whose quality of life is reduced due to problems that could be prevented or treated. Considering that the Unified Health System offers these services free of charge to the population, the ideal scenario would be for all citizens to have access. However, this study shows that this is not the reality, prompting us to reflect on why these individuals do not access these services. Neglecting oral health care can negatively impact various aspects of an individual's life, from nutrition to aesthetics. | |
| Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title) | I suggest adjusting the title to: "Impact of Oral Health on the Quality of Life of the Elderly." | |
| Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here. | The abstract conveys a comprehensive idea of the work; however, I suggest some improvements. In the objective, for example, I would change the name "Funorte" to: "college located in the state of Amazonas, Brazil." Readers from other countries have no idea what "Funorte" is. The abstract does not have a Discussion section. Include it. Were the procedures cited performed? If so, change the term "needed" because it implies, they need something that has not yet been performed. Removing "Funorte" from the conclusion, applies the same guidance for the objective. Keywords: "Quality of life" It already appears in the title; change it to a different word to increase the scope | |
| Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here. | The information agrees with a scientific point of view; however, more data and scientific information could enrich the discussion. | |
| Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form. | Most of the references are current and appropriate. However, I suggest you keep the references published in the last 5 years unless contextualization is needed. More current ones should replace older references. | |
| Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications? | It is adequate because the language, although simple, is easy to understand. | |

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| <p>Optional/General comments</p> | <p>Keywords:</p> <p>The keyword “quality of life” appears in the title. Replace it with other words to increase the chances of the article being found by potential readers.</p> <p>Introduction:</p> <p>Many paragraphs are disconnected; one does not “talk” to the other. I suggest adjusting the text to improve this connection between paragraphs.</p> <p>The text contains terms that are not appropriate for scientific writing. In the third paragraph, for example, the first phase is: “Aging is a common and inevitable process for all humans.” I would remove the term “all” because it gives the idea of immutable truth. People who die before age 60 do not go through the aging process, so this does not apply to them. I would also include the word “beings” in this sentence before the word “humans.”</p> <p>In the following sentence in the same paragraph, the text says “many times,” which I suggest removing. The reference in this paragraph (Moreira et al., 2013) is old. I suggest replacing it with a more current one.</p> <p>The fourth paragraph begins with the text “The majority”... The majority, how much? Terms like these should be avoided, avoiding subjectivity. The reader needs to understand in full. Replace “most” with real numbers.</p> <p>Consider bringing the fifth paragraph's first sentence to the fourth paragraph's beginning.</p> <p>The second sentence of the 6th paragraph is repetitive, as it has already been mentioned previously. Improve the writing of the paragraph without repeating what has already been said.</p> <p>In the second sentence of the 7th paragraph, remove the word Unfortunately. The text should be impersonal.</p> <p>In the excerpt “leading to more serious complications,” what are these complications? The following paragraph even mentions it, but the paragraphs do not “talk” to each other. The writing should be improved, and the paragraphs should be better connected.</p> <p>In the sentence, “Despite the decline in tooth decay rates, periodontal disease, which includes gingivitis and periodontitis, has become a prominent oral health problem, especially in older populations (Bianchini, 2023).” Insert numbers to support this information; what are the numbers of these diseases in Brazil to represent this public health problem?</p> <p>In the sentence “). Common oral problems in the elderly include difficulties chewing and swallowing, reduced saliva production, and changes in taste, all of which can affect general health (Costa et al., 2013).” There is information that has already been mentioned at the beginning of the text, remove it to avoid repetition.</p> <p>The sentence “It is essential to provide the elderly with aging processes that emphasize quality of life and dental care tailored to their needs, considering the natural pathologies of aging.” Does not have a reference. It needs to be referenced.</p> <p>In the last paragraph of the introduction, it needs to clarify the article's objective. Suggestion: Include in the introduction the fact that the Brazilian Unified Health System (SUS) offers free dental services to the population. This fact changes the interpretation of the text depending on the country where it is read. It is important to remember that dental care costs are very high in many countries, and in Brazil, the service is free.</p> <p>Materials and methods</p> <p>In the excerpt “This study is descriptive, with a cross-sectional quantitative approach, using medical records from the Funorte School Clinic,” it needs to be made clearer that the clinic... I believe it is a dentistry clinic. Make this clearer.</p> | |
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| | <p>In the sentence: "The research focused exclusively on a population of elderly people, analyzing a total of 50 medical records. The objective was to analyze and understand the oral health patterns of this age group." What age group? It needs to be made clearer</p> <p>In the sentence: "To collect data, records from the database made available by the clinic were evaluated, containing information on elderly people treated in 2023." It is necessary to be more specific. What is the period? Specify the date of the first and last medical records analyzed.</p> <p>Information about the ethics committee and approval should appear in the previous paragraph.</p> <p>There is missing information about how these medical records were analyzed. Was there a data collection form? Were the data collected qualitative? Quantitative? This process needs to be more apparent.</p> <p>RESULTS</p> <p>In the sentence: "Regarding medications, the most used were those for hypertension (66%), followed by diabetes (22%). In addition, a considerable number of patients (16%) were not taking any medication. The most common conditions were hypertension (62%) and anxiety (46%), followed by diabetes (26%). Chronic and inflammatory diseases: Problems such as rheumatism/arthritis (16%) and gastritis (18%) were also prevalent." Replace "prevalent" with "identified"</p> <p>Tables 1, 2, and 3: Insert "n" before the numbers cited, for example: (n=22)</p> <p>If the information is already in the tables, repeating it in running text is unnecessary.</p> <p>DISCUSSION</p> <p>The first paragraph is too long, fragment it.</p> <p>In the sentence "The gender distribution reveals a slight predominance of female patients (56%) compared to males (44%). This is a common trend in studies involving the elderly, as women typically have a longer life expectancy, consistent with demographic data in Brazil." Which studies are cited in the sentence? When we use the term "studies show" we need to cite which studies these are, in this paragraph, the reference to IBGE appears and not more than one study. Adjust the writing.</p> <p>I suggest removing the sentence ". The 2022 Census and data from the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) highlight life expectancy and age structure as factors contributing to the larger proportion of elderly people in this age bracket"; just the citation is sufficient.</p> <p>At several points in the discussion the terms "several studies" appear but "several studies" are not cited. It is necessary to adjust the text or insert citations of "several studies". If there is only one citation, the use of "several studies" is incorrect.</p> <p>In the sentence: "Studies indicate that approximately 80% of elderly Brazilians take at least one continuous medication, mainly for the treatment of chronic diseases such as hypertension and diabetes (ROZENFELD, 2003)." The reference used is very old, I believe that these numbers are very different today.</p> <p>When the issue of medications is discussed, the discussion was not expanded, it was very simplistic and had little to do with oral health.</p> <p>In the sentence: "Studies suggest that anxiety in elderly people may be related to fear of dental procedures, negative past experiences and social isolation, which negatively affect oral self-care (PEREIRA et al., 2019)." It left a doubt.</p> | |
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| | <p>Does the anxiety reported in the study refer to illness as an illness, or anxiety only in the dental office? They are two types of “different anxiety”, this needs to be made clearer in the text.</p> <p>In the paragraph: “Chronic and inflammatory diseases such as rheumatism/arthritis (16%) and gastritis (18%) were also prevalent, which is common due to natural aging and prolonged use of medications. Less frequent conditions, such as seizures, heart attacks, osteoarthritis, and ulcers, were reported by only 2% of patients. Notably, 10% of patients reported no diseases, indicating a small group with a healthier profile.” There was no discussion.</p> <p>In the paragraph: “Most patients do not have allergies to medications, foods, or products (Table 2). The low percentage of allergies reflects relatively low allergic risk factors in this population. A 2021 study estimates that 15% of elderly individuals have adverse reactions to medications, mainly due to slower metabolism and multiple comorbidities, which increase the risk of allergies and drug interactions (PERSEGONA et al., 2021).” Do the authors believe that 15% is a low percentage? How does this compare with the non-elderly population?</p> <p>In the paragraph: “The data revealed that 8% of patients experienced bleeding after tooth extractions, while 92% did not. Post-extraction bleeding rates may vary based on patient profiles and associated risk factors, such as use of anticoagulants or bleeding disorders such as hemophilia and von Willebrand disease.” Citation missing.</p> <p>The rest of the discussion is missing citations and the discussions are weak. The discussions of the results need to be reviewed and improved.</p> <p>I noticed that the entire text lacked a correlation between the information and oral health. For example: it talks about hypertension, but how does hypertension influence oral health? What does diabetes interfere with? Healing? This information was not explored further; the discussion seems to be descriptive of the results.</p> <p>CONCLUSION</p> <p>It summarizes the findings of the study, but does not mention the limitations, difficulties during the study, or suggestions for future research.</p> | |
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PART 2:

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| | <u>Reviewer’s comment</u> | <u>Author’s comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</u> |
| <u>Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?</u> | <u>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</u> | |

Reviewer Details:

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