Prevalence and types of Infant Oral Mutilation and Oral Health-related Quality of Life among Kenyan adolescents from Maasai Mara

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**AIM:** To study the prevalence of Infant Oral Mutilation (IOM) due to germectomy and avulsion, and its impact on Oral Health-related Quality of Life (OHQoL) among Kenyan adolescents from Maasai Mara.

**METHODS:** A cross-sectional study, including an oral examination, was carried out. Data on demographics was collected by use of structured questionnaire, and OHRQoL was measured by Child Perceptions Questionnaire (CPQ).

**RESULTS:** Among 284 participants (14-18 yrs of age), the majority (173 (61.1%)) showed signs of IOM. Among these, 164 (94.8%) had absence of two mandibular central incisors. The healthiness of teeth and mouth was characterized as “very good” or “good” in contrast to “OK” or “bad” by 148 (86%) individuals in the IOM group and 83 (87%) individuals in the control group (p=0.853, Chi-squared test). How the condition of teeth and mouth influenced the life was answered by “not at all” or “very little” in contrast to “some”, “a lot”, or “very much” by 156 (91%) individuals in the IOM group and by 85 (89%) in the control group (p=0.665, Chi-squared test). The median total CPQ score and median sub-domain scores were low in both groups and no significant differences between groups were found.

**CONCLUSIONS:** The IOM practice is prevalent in Maasai Mara as approximately two-third of the study population presented IOM. The impact on OHRQoL was low. Most of the participants (80.4%) were happy with their dentition. There is, however, still a need for oral-health-related education to improve the understanding of the possible negative side effects of IOM.