Topic: Smile Perception Among Dental Students in Malaysia

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Abstract

Introduction: A smile is a wonderful appearance for humans and everyone have their own perspectives when it comes to smile especially dental professional including dental students. **Aim and objectives**: This study was conducted to assess the aesthetic self-perception and factors that affect smile perception and attractiveness among the dental students in Malaysia. **Material & methods:** This cross-sectional study consists of 427 dental undergraduates of dental faculty from nine (9) different public and private universities which had completed structured online questionnaire via Google Form. Questionnaire consists of two (2) sections; of 15 YES or NO questions regarding the smile self-perception and; six (6) photoshopped of altered smile pictures, rated using visual analogue scale (VAS) from 1 to 10. **Results:** For self-perception regarding their own smile in section B, 56.9% of the dental students have positive self-perception regarding their own smile. Gender was statistically significant (p-value= 0.000), while the institution was not (p= 0.665). 72.6% wish their teeth whiter and 73.5% were unhappy with their smile. In section C, all 6 pictures except for ideal male and female smile showed significant difference for age with (p= <0.01). However, about 55.8% in males rated less attractive in smile with diastema and found to be insignificant with (p= 0.115) and for race, they were accepted that smile with diastema, gummy smile and reverse smile arc were considered to be the variation that spoiled the beautiful of their smile. Clinical students somewhat appreciate the ideal smile better than the pre-clinical group. **Conclusion:** Dental undergraduates in Malaysia have a positive self-perception of smile and have a critical judgement in evaluation of altered smile features as they are exposed to dental curriculum which change their perception towards dental esthetic.

(282 words)