

Risk factors for poor oral health related quality of life in a cohort of people who use methamphetamine in Australia

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Introduction and Aims:

Methamphetamine use impacts oral health, but little is known about its impacts on Oral Health Related Quality of Life (OHRQoL). This study examined OHRQoL in a cohort of people who use methamphetamine and assessed associations with sociodemographic, behavioural, psychosocial and dental service utilisation risk factors.

Design and Methods:

Cross-sectional analysis of OHRQoL data from the VMAX cohort of people who use methamphetamine in Victoria, Australia (n=194). Utilising the oral health impact profile (OHIP-14), we assessed three OHRQoL outcomes: OHIP-14 prevalence (reporting adverse dental impacts "fairly often" or "very often" in the previous year), OHIP-14 extent (sum of adverse dental impacts reported "fairly often" or "very often") and OHIP-14 severity (summary) scores. Regression analyses examined associations between risk factors and the three OHIP-14 outcome measures.

Results:

The prevalence of poor OHRQoL was 35% (95% CI:27.9,41.7), mean OHIP-14 extent and severity scores were 1.58 (95% CI:1.15,2.01) and 9.63 (95% CI:7.8,11.47), respectively. Overall, no statistically significant association was detected between methamphetamine RoA administration and the three OHIP-14 outcomes. There were significant associations between rural location of residence, depression and methamphetamine dependence with the three outcomes of poor OHRQoL, which persisted after adjusting for other covariates.

Discussions and Conclusions:

OHRQoL levels amongst the VMAX cohort compared unfavourably to the general population. Our findings highlight the need for upstream interventions to improve the OHRQoL of people who use methamphetamine, with specific focus on those living in rural locations. Further research on the links between OHRQoL and mental health among people who use methamphetamine is required.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

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