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## **COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE LEVEL OF DENTAL HYGIENE KNOWLEDGE AMONG INDIVIDUALS WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENT**

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### **Abstract**

The study is devoted to assessing the level of dental hygiene knowledge among individuals with hearing impairment. The data obtained from a survey of 300 respondents was analyzed. The frequency of visiting the dentist, awareness of professional hygiene, use of additional care products, and motivation to receive recommendations were assessed. Insufficient knowledge, low frequency of use of additional hygiene products, and poor awareness of the role of dental hygienists were established. The results emphasize the need to develop targeted preventive programs adapted to the needs of this group.

**Keywords:** level of knowledge, dental hygiene, persons with hearing impairment, prevention, dental hygienists, survey.

### **Introduction.**

The dental health of a significant part of the population remains at risk due to insufficient levels of hygiene knowledge and preventive activity. People with hearing impairments have specific barriers in accessing information on oral hygiene, which can lead to increased morbidity. This group is characterized by a special perception of the surrounding world, which requires the use of adapted educational approaches in the prevention of dental diseases.

Scientific data on the level of dental hygiene knowledge in individuals with hearing impairments remain limited. This makes it difficult to develop effective preventive



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30<sup>th</sup> May, 2025

programs aimed at improving hygiene behavior and reducing the risk of dental diseases in this group.

The aim of the study was to conduct a comparative analysis of the level of dental hygiene knowledge in individuals with hearing impairments to identify key gaps in awareness and develop recommendations for improving preventive dental care.

### Materials and Methods

The study included a comparative analysis of the level of dental hygiene knowledge among 300 adult respondents with hearing impairment aged 18 to 55 years. The main inclusion criteria were the presence of a diagnosed hearing impairment, residence in the region under study, and voluntary informed consent to participate. Persons with severe concomitant diseases and respondents who refused to participate were excluded.

### Conclusion

The results of the study revealed a low level of dental hygiene knowledge and insufficient preventive activity among people with hearing impairment. The main problems remain infrequent visits to the dentist, insufficient use of additional oral care products and low awareness of professional hygiene. At the same time, a high percentage of respondents expressed interest in receiving professional recommendations, which confirms the importance of developing targeted educational programs.

To improve the dental health of this population group, it is recommended to introduce adapted preventive measures, including visual and interactive materials, as well as greater involvement of dental hygienists. These measures will reduce the incidence of dental diseases and improve the quality of life of people with hearing impairment.

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