

Cognitive function and oral perception in independently-living octogenarians

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Today, at the 43rd Annual Meeting & Exhibition of the American Association for Dental Research (AADR), held in conjunction with the 38th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association for Dental Research, Kazunori Ikebe, from Osaka University, Japan, will present a research study titled "Cognitive Function and Oral Perception in Independently-living Octogenarians."

In this study, researchers hypothesized that the decline of [cognitive impairment](#) is involved in oral perceptions since its preclinical stage. The aim of this study was to examine association of cognitive function with tactile and [taste](#) perceptions in independently-living 80 years-old elderly.

The participants were community-dwelling and independently-living elderly (n=956, 80 years old) excluding those with dementia. Cognitive function was measured using the Japanese version of the Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA-J) that was the assessment tool of [mild cognitive impairment](#). Oral tactile perception was tested by oral stereognostic ability (OSA) with the test pieces comprised six shaped forms. Subjects were told they should use their tongue and palate to identify the shape. The correct identification of the shape was scored. Taste perception was evaluated by the whole mouth gustatory test with 1-ml of water solution included the four basic tastes (sweet, sour, salty and bitter). The concentration answered the taste correctly was taken as the recognition threshold.

Multiple linear regression analysis was used to examine relationships

between tactile and taste perceptions and cognitive function after controlling for gender and number of teeth. P-values

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