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### **Assessment of the Oral Health Behaviour, Knowledge and Status Among Patients Visiting Klinik Pergigian Manipal University College Malaysia (MUCM): A Cross- Sectional Study**

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Oral health is an essential aspect of overall well-being, yet many individuals continue to display inadequate practices despite accessibility to care. This study aimed to assess the oral health behavior, knowledge, and status of patients visiting Klinik Pergigian, Manipal University College Malaysia (MUCM), and to evaluate differences based on gender and ethnicity. A cross-sectional survey was conducted among 222 adult dental patients using a validated questionnaire that addressed demographics, oral health behavior, knowledge, and self-reported status. Data were analyzed using Chi-square tests, with the level of significance set at  $p < 0.05$ . Findings indicated that females exhibited significantly better oral health behaviors compared to males, including a higher prevalence of twice-daily brushing (92.91% vs 80.25%,  $p = 0.006$ ) and regular dental visits (43.26% vs 24.69%,  $p = 0.006$ ). Conversely, males reported higher use of toothpicks (28.40% vs 7.09%,  $p = 0.001$ ). No significant gender differences were observed in brushing duration or frequency of toothbrush replacement. Ethnic differences were noted in brushing techniques, with Chinese participants favouring vertical scrubbing and Indian participants circular brushing, though most other parameters did not differ significantly. Overall, the study revealed favourable oral health behaviors but limited knowledge, highlighting the importance of targeted oral health education to promote sustained preventive practices.

**Keywords:** Ethnicity, Gender differences, Knowledge, Malaysia, Oral health behaviors

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