

PP 20

Intraoperative pain perception among adult patients following simple tooth extraction at Dental Hospital University of Peradeniya

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Background: The process of simple tooth extraction is carried out under local anaesthesia as the main pain management technique. Even though anesthesia is given it is important to identify whether there is a pain during tooth extraction.

Objective: To determine the level of pain perceived during simple tooth extraction and the association of some selected internal factors on the degree of pain.

Methods & Materials: This descriptive cross-sectional study was carried out at the Dental Hospital, University of Peradeniya among patients who attended the dental clinic for simple tooth extraction during the first two weeks of August, 2021. A convenient sampling method was followed. Data collection was done by using a pretested, self-administered questionnaire and dental records. Pain was recorded ten minutes after the extraction by using a Visual Analogue Scale. Intra-operative pain perception and its variation with selected factors were analyzed by using SPSS.

Results: A total number of 133 participants (42.1%: males and 57.9%: females) had undergone dental extraction with the age range of 18–60 years. Mean pain score of the sample was 4.02 ± 2.72 which resembles moderate pain. There was a significant association between perceived intra-operative pain and patients' gender (male: 5.20 ± 2.25 and female: 3.17 ± 2.73) ($p < 0.1$). Among different occupational groups, students recorded the highest pain (5.32 ± 2.56). There was a significant association between pain score and previous experience of tooth extraction ($p < 0.1$). When considering the type of tooth extracted, a higher degree of pain was experienced for molar teeth (mean pain score = 4.98 ± 2.72). Patients with better oral health behaviours perceived comparatively a lesser pain during tooth extraction.

Conclusion: There is moderate level of pain during tooth extraction. Pain intensity varies with factors such as gender, occupation, tooth type, previous experience and oral health behaviours of individuals.