

## **Tooth Replacement and Nutrition in Older People: Is There a Future for Traditional Removable Prosthodontics?**

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Missing teeth remains a problem for Indonesian with increased number of missing teeth for older age group. Basic Health Survey 2013 reveals average missing teeth for 45-54 age group is six, and an average of 11 missing teeth is experienced by the 55-64 age group, while the above 65 year olds lost 18 teeth on average. The loss of natural teeth can result in aesthetic issues and reduce oral functions including masticatory performance. This reduce in masticatory

performance can affect food choices and will likely influence the nutritional status. Furthermore, masticatory function is also one of the most important oral health factors that affect quality of life.

It is known that the risk of malnutrition is increased by being edentulous. However, many older people believe that being partially/fully edentulous is a natural part of aging and adapt to that condition. In this presentation, tooth loss and tooth replacement as it relates to masticatory function and nutrition, especially for Indonesian, will be presented. Sociodemographic factors such as age, sex, and education level will also be discussed.

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