

# Understanding oral health beliefs and practices among cantonese-speaking older Australians

**Author/s:** Mariño, R. Minichiello, V. MacEntee, M. I. | **Year:** 2010 | **Publication type:** Journal article | **Peer reviewed:** | **Topic area/s:** Dental

**Reference:**

**Key Words:**

oral health, Chinese, access and use of services

**Research aim:**

to explore how older immigrants from Hong Kong or Southern China manage their oral health in Melbourne.

**Results/Conclusion:**

Four major themes relevant to oral health care emerged from the discussion: (i) traditional Chinese health beliefs; (ii) traditional medicine and oral health; (iii) attitudes towards dentists; and (iv) access to oral health-care services. Language, communication and cost of dentistry were identified as major barriers to oral health care.

**Implications:**

Older Chinese immigrants in Melbourne have concerns about oral health care that are similar to other ethnic groups, they want more oral health-related support from government, and many of them return to China or Hong Kong for dental treatment.

**Cultural Group(s):**

Chinese, Cantonese

**Location of study:**

Victoria (Melbourne)

**Age group:**

55+

**Number included in study:**

50 people (from 6 focus groups)

**Type of participants:**

Cantonese speaking aged 55+ living in Melbourne

**Research approach:**

Qualitative

**Type of data:**

Primary

**Secondary data sources used:**

**Specific scales or analytical techniques used:**

**Implications/ Recommendations:**

**Notes:**