

„Preferences in periodontal disease“

Interview guide for patient interviews

Working document

Contents

Readers guide	3
Part1: Welcoming and introduction to interviews	4
Part 2: Dicsussion on the primary treatment objective and disease symptom	5
Part 3: Discussion on additional treatment	6
Part 4 (from 3rd interview onwards) Testing choice scenarios	9

Readers guide

The interview guide presents the procedure, which was applied throughout the patient interviews. The following notes should facilitate understanding of the guide.

Text written in **blue**: headings and instructions for the moderator & facilitator

Text written in **green**: anticipated reactions from patients

Text written in **black**: Information provided orally during the focus group interviews

Preparation of interviews

- Welcoming participants
- Offer soft drinks and snacks
- Completion of consent forms and patient characteristics questionnaire

Part1: Welcoming and introduction to interviews

Introduction of moderator and facilitator

We thank you very much for your interest in this study and are happy to have you here for our group discussion. We thank you very much for participating in this discussion. We prepared a name tag for everyone.

During this discussion we will ask several questions on your periodontal disease and its treatment. We would like to get to know more about aspects that you consider important or unimportant in the treatment of your periodontal disease.

Before we start, we would like to explain the procedure of the discussion. The discussion will be an open exchange of opinions and experiences regarding your treatment. There are not right or wrong answers just different views. Feel free to share your personal opinion even though it might differ from other persons' opinions.

Everything you tell us in this discussion including your name will be kept confidential. All analyses and summaries of your contributions will be anonymized i.e. your name or cannot be linked to your statements anymore. We would also like to request that any information you hear from the other participants today should be kept confidential as well.

Probably you have seen the voice recorder already. We would like to record our conversation to keep your contributions, listen to them and analyse them afterwards. If everybody agrees we will start the voice recorder now.

Start voice recorder

To be able to understand everyone on the tape and during the discussion it is important that only one person speaks at a time. After each question we would like to make a short round where each of you can state their personal opinion. Afterwards we can discuss your different views.

Maybe we can start with a quick round of personal introductions. Maybe you can also tell us for how long you are already receiving treatment for periodontal disease.

Introduction of participants

Part 2: Discussion on the primary treatment objective and disease symptom

We would like to know your primary treatment goal and the symptoms that are most important regarding your disease.

Therefore we would like you to write down your primary treatment objective first. What do you want to achieve with this treatment?

- Distribute sticky notes for each participant
- Leave some time for everyone to complete the task
- Collect notes on Whiteboard
- Discussion on the treatment objectives noted down by patients

Now we would like you to write down the disease symptom which is most important for you. This might be a symptom that you consider very unpleasant or which you are afraid of.

- Distribute sticky notes for each participant
- Leave some time for everyone to complete the task
- Collect notes on Whiteboard
- Discussion on the treatment objectives noted down by patients

Part 3: Discussion on additional treatment

In the next part of our discussion we would like to talk about some additional aspects of your disease and treatment. We will always show a keyword on the whiteboard and would like you to express your thoughts on the keyword in relation to your disease and treatment. Please let us know whether this aspect plays an important role or not.

For each of the attributes listed below, complete the following steps:

1. Show keyword on whiteboard (in random order throughout interviews)
2. Let patients express their thoughts on the keyword
3. Use follow-up questions if things are unclear e.g.,
 - How would this influence your decision to undergo or refuse treatment?
 - Did you experience this? What was it like?

- **Tooth pain**

Potential follow-up questions:

- Intensity and frequency

- **Sensitive tooth necks**

Potential follow-up questions:

- Permanent /At which occasions
- Relation to periodontal disease

- **Gum bleeding**

Potential follow-up questions:

- Permanent /At which occasions
- Intensity and frequency

- **Side effects of treatment**

- With antibiotics: Gastro-intestinal disorder, headache, nausea
- Pain, soreness, sensitive teeth
- Additional side effects patients experienced

Potential follow-up questions:

- Discussion of individual types of side effects if patients bring them up

- **Tooth loss**

Potential follow-up questions:

- Importance of saving teeth?
- Fear of implants / dentures?
- Prevention of aesthetic consequences?

- **Loosening of teeth**

Potential follow-up questions:

- Related problems: problems in speaking / chewing / other activities?

- **Appearance of teeth**

Potential follow-up questions:

- Are there changes in appearance? Do you feel uncomfortable with these changes? Why?
- Fear of being stigmatized?

- **Halitosis**

Potential follow-up questions:

- Permanent? / related to changes in periodontal disease?
- Intensity and frequency

- **Own measures and treatments**

Potential follow-up questions:

- Are there own measures you do? Which?
- How much time do you need?
- Are there any treatments that were recommended but you cannot or do not want to perform them? Why?
- Physicians sometime recommend general life style changes such as quitting smoking or changing diet. Did you do any or would you do so?

- **Costs for the patient (professional plaque removal, treatment, follow-up care)**

Potential follow-up questions:

- Which costs do you have to cover? For which treatments / products do you have to pay?

- **Follow-up care / treatment / preventive treatment**

Potential follow-up questions:

- How often do you have to receive treatment / follow-up care?
- Which frequency do you consider optimal for follow-up care?

- **Treatment process**

Potential follow-up questions:

- How long does the treatment take?
- Is this painful?

Are there any additional aspects of the disease and treatment which we did not cover yet, but you consider them relevant?

Collect additional remarks on whiteboard and discuss them with patients

Part 4 (from 3rd interview onwards) Testing choice scenarios

Different choice scenarios were tested from the third interview onwards. Patients were asked to complete these and provide feedback on the task.

In this short questionnaire you see examples of the tasks in the questionnaire we try to develop with these interviews. Please take some time to complete these tasks and let us know anything you recognize about these tasks.

Distribution of exemplary choice scenarios

Question 1	Treatment A	Treatment B
Tooth loss within next 10 years	1 tooth lost	3 tooth lost
Own costs	200 Euro per year	100 Euro per year
Frequency of follow-up care	2 per year	3 per year
Which treatment would you choose?		

Question 2	Treatment A	Treatment B
Tooth loss within next 10 years	2 tooth lost	2 tooth lost
Own costs	none	300 Euro per year
Frequency of follow-up care	3 per year	1 per year
Aesthetic changes	Stained teeth	none
Which treatment would you choose?		

Question 3	Treatment A	Treatment B
Tooth loss within next 10 years	1	3
Own costs	200 Euro per year	100 Euro per year
Frequency of follow-up care	2 per year	3 per year
Time required for hygiene measures	40 minutes per day	20 minutes per day
Which treatment would you choose?		

Question 4	Treatment A	Treatment B
Tooth loss within next 10 years	2	2
Own costs	none	300 Euro per year
Frequency of follow-up care	3 per year	1 per year
Time required for hygiene measures	40 minutes per day	5 minutes per day
Which treatment would you choose?		

Potential questions for additional discussion:

- Do you have comments relating to this task?

- Did you notice something you consider strange or illogical?
- Was the task difficult? Why?

Closing of interview

Thank you very much for participating in this study.

Distribution of packages with dental care products