

**A STUDY ON THE EFFECT OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ORAL HEALTH  
BEHAVIOR AND KNOWLEDGE ON THEIR VERBAL ORAL HEALTH  
LITERACY**

**Sun-Ju Jang**  
Gimcheon University  
Republic of Korea

**Mi-Hyun Kang**  
Gimcheon University  
Republic of Korea

**Man Kyu Huh**  
Dong-eui University  
Republic of Korea

**Hye-Jin Kim**  
Dong-eui University  
Republic of Korea

**ABSTRACT**

Oral health literacy is related to the understanding of oral health information and the obstacles to the use of preventive service. Oral health behavior included eight questions tooth-brushing method, scaling, frequency of eating sweet foods, tongue cleaning, use of oral hygiene products, tooth-brushing behavior before going to sleep and dental treatment behavior. Oral health knowledge and behavior were accordance with verbal oral health literacy score distribution. The level of oral health knowledge and behavior of university students is relevant to their oral health literacy. Individuals with low verbal oral health literacy fail to accurately understand information related to oral health and hinder the improvement of individual oral health conditions. Thus, in order to carry out mid to long term oral health management, it is imperative to establish an oral health program for improving the verbal oral health literacy of university students.

**Keywords:** Oral health literacy.