

***The Relationship Between Taste Sensitivity and Dentition Completeness with
Nutritional Status of the Elderly at Tamanan Health Center***

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ABSTRACT

The elderly are a group of individuals who have entered the final stage of their life phase. The elderly experience a decline in the function and sensitivity of the sense of taste and also suffer from tooth loss, which makes it difficult for them to chew. Changes in the anatomical and physiological functions of the sensory system and digestive system are closely related to the occurrence of decreased nutritional status in the elderly. This study aims to determine the relationship between taste sensitivity and dentition completeness with the nutritional status of the elderly at Tamanan Health Center. This research is an Analytical Observational study with a Cross-sectional design. The respondents in this study were 101 elderly individuals selected using Cluster Random Sampling. The instruments used in this study included taste sensitivity tests, a dentition completeness form, and anthropometric measurements. Data analysis using the Chi-Square test showed that there was a significant relationship between taste sensitivity and the nutritional status of the elderly ($p = 0.001$), while no significant relationship was found between dentition completeness and nutritional status ($p = 0.184$) among the elderly at Tamanan Health Center.

Keywords: *Taste Sensitivity, Dentition Completeness, Nutritional Status, Elderly.*