Swiss TPH
Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute

Request to participate in medical research:

Just for reading
للقراءة فقط

# Access to oral health care among asylum seekers and refugees in Switzerland (Phase 2: Questionnaire)

Good day!

We are a research team from the Swiss Tropical Public Health institute that is affiliated from university of Basel.
We are asking you here if you would like to voluntary participate in a qualitative study that focus on oral health care among asylum seekers and refugees in Switzerland.

The research project is conducted by Prof. Nicole Probst-Hensch and by the doctoral candidate Lujain Alchalabi under the supervision of Prof. Nicole Probst-Hensch.

We will explain you the study information and answer all your questions. You can find at first the summarized study information and later further detailed information.

## Why are we conducting this research project?

- Oral health is an important part of overall physical and mental health. Oral health care behavior is essential for maintaining oral health and preventing it from damage. Oral health care behavior could have multiple determinates among asylum seekers and refugees, yet they are not explored.
- In our research project, we want:
  - To explore how one's own circumstances, ideas, and values can shape oral health care behavior (such as tooth brushing or visiting the dentist).
  - To know how each oral health care behavior is related to having oral health problems
  - To measure how oral health problems are connected to quality of life (such as eating, speaking, sleeping, and socializing)

## What do I have to do if I participate? – What will happen to me if I participate?

- Form of participation: If you decide to participate, you will be interviewed by one of our study staff.
- Participation process: If you participate, you will be asked to:
  - Suggest a suitable date, time and location for the a 45 minutes interview
  - Answer questions on experiences and knowledge of oral health, oral care behavior, asked by the study staff

## What are the benefits and what are the risks involved?

**Benefit**

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- The overall findings of the research project will stimulate developing guidelines for you to facilitate your access to oral health care and improve your oral health care behavior.

**Risk and burden**

- There are no risks associated with participating in the study.
- The maximum time of participating in the interviews will be 45 minutes, I addition to 15 minutes for reading the study information and consenting

**By signing at the end of the document, you confirm that you are participating voluntarily and that you understand the contents of the entire document.**

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## Detailed information

### 1. Aim and selection

In this participant information, we refer to our study as a *research project*. If you participate in this research project, you are a *participant*.

In this research project we want to investigate the oral health care behavior and its association with the related quality of life. We are inviting you because anyone who is 14 years and older, speaks Arabic, and is an asylum seekers or a refugee with residency permit N, F or B can participate.

### 2. General information

- We still know little about the oral health care behavior among asylum seekers and refugees in Switzerland.
- So we want to find out what determines and influences the oral health care behavior and whether it relates to the quality of life.
- If you participate you will be interviewed in Arabic by one the study staff
- We are expecting to enroll around 300 asylum seekers and refugees, during 12 months in this research project.
- We are conducting this research project as required by the laws in Switzerland. We also respect all internationally recognized guidelines. The responsible ethics committee reviewed and approved the research project.

### 3. Procedure

If you participate, you will be met once for the interview which will not be longer than 60 minutes (15 minutes consenting and information and 45 minutes answering questions).
We may have to exclude you from the research project prematurely. This may happen if we anticipated stress-related signs and difficulty in answering some questions.

### 4. Benefit

This research's finding is expected to stimulate developing guidelines for you to improve you oral health and ease your utilization of the available services. Additionally, this research findings might encourage developing guidelines for oral health workers to enhance their communication with you and ensure the maximum benefit of each dental visit

### 5. Voluntary participation and duties

Your participation is voluntary. If you do not wish to participate in this research project or later want to withdraw your participation, you do not have to justify this.

If you participate in this research project, you are asked to:

- Adhere to the scheduled interview time and place with the study staff

### 6. Risks and burdens

The research project only exposes you to minor risks such as:

- Burden: The interview could be considered time consuming.
- Questions about the quality of life that is affected by oral health and related past experiences might be stressful.

### 7. Alternatives

If you do not want to take part in this research project but are open to the possibility of taking part in other research projects, please inform the study staff.

### 8. Results

There are:

1. individual results of the research project that directly affect you,

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2. Individual results of the research project that arise by chance (so-called incidental findings)
3. Objective end results of the entire research project.

About (1): The investigator will inform you in the course of the project about all new results and findings that are important to you personally. You will be informed verbally and in writing and can then decide again whether you want to continue participating in the project.
About (2): Incidental findings are so-called “accompanying results”, i.e. results which were not explicitly researched but which are found by chance.
In the case of incidental findings, you will be informed if these findings are relevant to your health. This means that such findings will be communicated to you if a previously unknown disease has been discovered by chance or if a disease that has not yet occurred can be prevented. If you do not wish to be informed about this, please speak to your investigator.
About (3): Your investigator can send you a summary of the overall results at the end of the research project.

## 9. Confidentiality of Data and Samples

### 9.1. Data Processing and Encryption

For this research project, data about you and your health will be collected and processed, partly in an automated manner. Your data will be encrypted during data collection. Encryption means that all reference data that could identify you (name, date of birth, etc.) are deleted and replaced by a code. Persons who do not have access to this key list cannot draw any conclusions about your identity. The key list always remains in Swiss TPH servers.
Only authorized study staff will see your unencrypted data and only to perform tasks as part of the research project. These persons are subject to confidentiality. As a participant, you have the right to view your data.

### 9.2. Data protection and protection of the samples

The protection of personal data is strictly regulated by Swiss law. All data protection requirements are strictly observed. It is possible that your data have to be transmitted in encrypted form, for example for a publication, and can be made available to other researchers.

### 9.3. Rights of access during inspections

This research project may be reviewed by the responsible ethics committee and by the project management. The investigator must then disclose your data for such checks. All involved must maintain absolute confidentiality.

## 10. Withdrawal

You can withdraw from the research project at any time. In this case, however, the data and samples collected up to that point will still be evaluated in encrypted form.
After the evaluation, your data will be anonymized. The key to your identifiers will be destroyed so that afterwards no one can find out that the data and samples originally came from you. This is primarily for data protection purposes.

## 11. Compensation

If you participate in this research project, you will receive the following compensation:

- Shopping voucher that worth 30.- CHF
- Manual TRISA toothbrush

We will reimburse you for expenses such as travel expenses that are incurred as a result of participation. You or your health insurance company will not incur any costs as a result of participating.

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**12. Liability**

If you suffer damage as a result of the research project, the Swiss Tropical and Public Health institute that initiated the research project and is responsible for its implementation is liable. The requirements and procedure are regulated by law.

**13. Financing**

The research project is funded by the Swiss Tropical and Public Health institute's research fund.

**14. Contact person(s)**

You can ask questions about participating in the project at any time. If you have any uncertainties that arise during the research project or afterwards, please contact:

| | |
|---|---|
| The principal investigator:<br>Telephone:<br>Address:<br>Email: | Prof. Nicole Probst-Hensch<br>+41 61 284 83 78<br>Swiss Tropical Public Health institute, Kreuzstrasse 2, 4123 Alschwil<br>Nicole.probst@swisstph.ch |
| The doctoral candidate:<br>Telephone:<br>Address:<br>Email: | Lujain Alchalabi<br>+41 79 124 28 84<br>Swiss Tropical Public Health institute, Kreuzstrasse 2, 4123 Allschwil<br>Lujain.alchalabi@swisstph.ch |

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## Declaration of consent

### Written declaration of consent to participate in a research project

Please read this form carefully. Please ask if you don't understand or want to know something. Your written consent is required for participation.

| | |
|---|---|
| **BASEC number (after submission) :** | 2023-00871 |
| **Title of research project (scientific and lay language)**: | Access to oral health care among asylum seekers and refugees in Switzerland |
| **Responsible institution (project management with address)**: | Swiss Tropical Public Health institute<br>Prof. Nicole Probst-Hensch<br>Kreuzstrasse 2, 4123 Alschwil |
| **Site of study conduct**: | Swiss Tropical Public Health institute<br>Kreuzstrasse 2, 4123 Alschwil |
| **Investigator of the research project at the study site:**<br>Surname and first name in block letters: | Prof. Nicole Probst-Hensch |
| **Participant:**<br>• Surname and first name in block letters: | …… |
| • Date of birth: | …….... |

- I was informed verbally and in writing by the undersigned study staff about the purpose, the course, possible advantages and disadvantages and possible risks of the research project.
- I voluntary participate in this research project and accept the content of the written information provided about the research project mentioned above. I had enough time to make my decision.
- My questions regarding participation in this research project have been answered. I keep the written information and receive a copy of my signed declaration of consent.
- I agree that the responsible experts of the project management and the ethics committee responsible for this research project may inspect my unencrypted data for verification and control purposes, but with strict observance of confidentiality.
- I will be informed of any results that directly affect my health. If I do not want this, I will inform the undersigned study staff.
- I may withdraw from participation at any time and without giving reasons. The data collected up to that point will still be used for the evaluation of the research project.
- I am aware that the obligations stated in the participant information must be complied with. In the interest of my health, the investigator can exclude me at any time.

| Place and date | Signature of participant |
|---|---|
| | |

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|---|---|
| | Thumbprint (only for participants who cannot read):<br>  |
| | Signature of witness (needed only for participants who cannot read):<br><br>Relationship of the witness to the study team: |

**Investigator's confirmation (the person taking the consent):** I hereby confirm that I have explained the nature, importance and scope of the research project to this participant. I assure that I will fulfill all obligations in connection with this research project according to the law applicable in Switzerland. If, in the course of the research project, I learn of aspects that could influence the willingness of the participant to take part in the research project, I will inform him/her immediately.

| | |
|---|---|
| Place and date<br><br>..... | Surname and name of the person taking the consent in block letters<br><br>..... |
| | Signature of the person taking the consent |