

**Table S1.** Awareness of periodontal health among Malaysian university students with FOA

Answers n = 394	Dental plaque	Dental calculus	Halitosis (bad breath)	Gingival bleeding	Gingival recession	Gingival enlargement	Burning sensation	Tooth mobility
<b>Yes</b>	308 (78.2%)	111 (28.3%)	104 (26.4%)	238 (60.4%)	188 (47.7%)	181 (45.9%)	52 (13.2%)	128 (31.7%)
<b>No</b>	68 (17.3%)	253 (64.2%)	248 (62.9%)	144 (46.5%)	162 (41.1%)	181 (45.9%)	311 (78.9%)	215 (55.3%)
<b>Unsure</b>	18 (4.6%)	30 (7.6%)	42 (10.7%)	12 (3.0%)	44 (11.2%)	32 (8.1%)	31 (7.9%)	51 (12.9%)
<b>Mean score ± Std. Dev.</b>	1.74 ± 0.53	1.21 ± 0.56	1.16 ± 0.59	1.57 ± 0.55	1.37 ± 0.68	1.05 ± 0.63	1.38 ± 0.63	1.19 ± 0.64
<b>Overall mean score ± S.D.</b>	1.33 ± 0.28							

**Table S2.** Knowledge and attitudes toward OHE among Malaysian university students with FOA

		Highly disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neutral (3)	Agree (4)	Highly agree (5)	Mean $\pm$ S.D.	Overall mean $\pm$ S.D.
Question 1	Wearing braces initiates and is the primary cause of gum inflammation	67 (17.0%)	85 (21.6%)	81 (20.6%)	113 (28.7%)	48 (12.2%)	2.97 $\pm$ 1.29	3.36 $\pm$ 0.68
Question 2	Wearing braces causes an increased frequency of bleeding while brushing	47 (11.9%)	62 (15.7%)	51 (12.9%)	141 (35.8%)	93 (23.6%)	3.43 $\pm$ 1.32	
Question 3	Wearing braces causes and increases the frequency of developing bad breath (halitosis)	50 (12.7%)	169 (42.9%)	84 (21.3%)	76 (19.3%)	15 (3.8%)	2.59 $\pm$ 1.06	
Question 4	Do you find it more difficult to carry out your routine oral hygiene procedures after starting wearing braces?	23 (5.8%)	19 (4.8%)	21 (5.3%)	204 (51.8%)	127 (32.2%)	4.00 $\pm$ 1.05	
Question 5	Do you tend to shorten the duration of your oral hygiene procedures or skip one of the procedures due to it being indispensable after starting wearing fixed braces?	52 (8.2%)	121 (30.7%)	66 (16.8%)	135 (34.3%)	20 (10.1%)	2.87 $\pm$ 1.17	
Question 6	I understand that maintaining and practicing good oral hygiene is more important compared to when I am not wearing braces	25 (6.3%)	17 (4.3%)	24 (6.1%)	78 (19.8%)	250 (63.5%)	4.30 $\pm$ 1.16	