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INTRODUCTION

Advanced laryngeal cancer has a significant impact on voice and swallowing functions, with consequences on quality of life. Described by Bruce Pearson in 1981, the conservative Near-total Laryngectomy is a partial laryngectomy that can be used in selected T3 and T4 tumors, allowing the maintenance of speech by creating a shunt that allows the patient to restore phonation and obtaining an intelligible voice, which makes him/her more independent, in addition to maintaining natural nutrition with minimal aspiration.

OBJECTIVE

To verify voice quality and its impact on the quality of life of patients undergoing Near-total Laryngectomy.

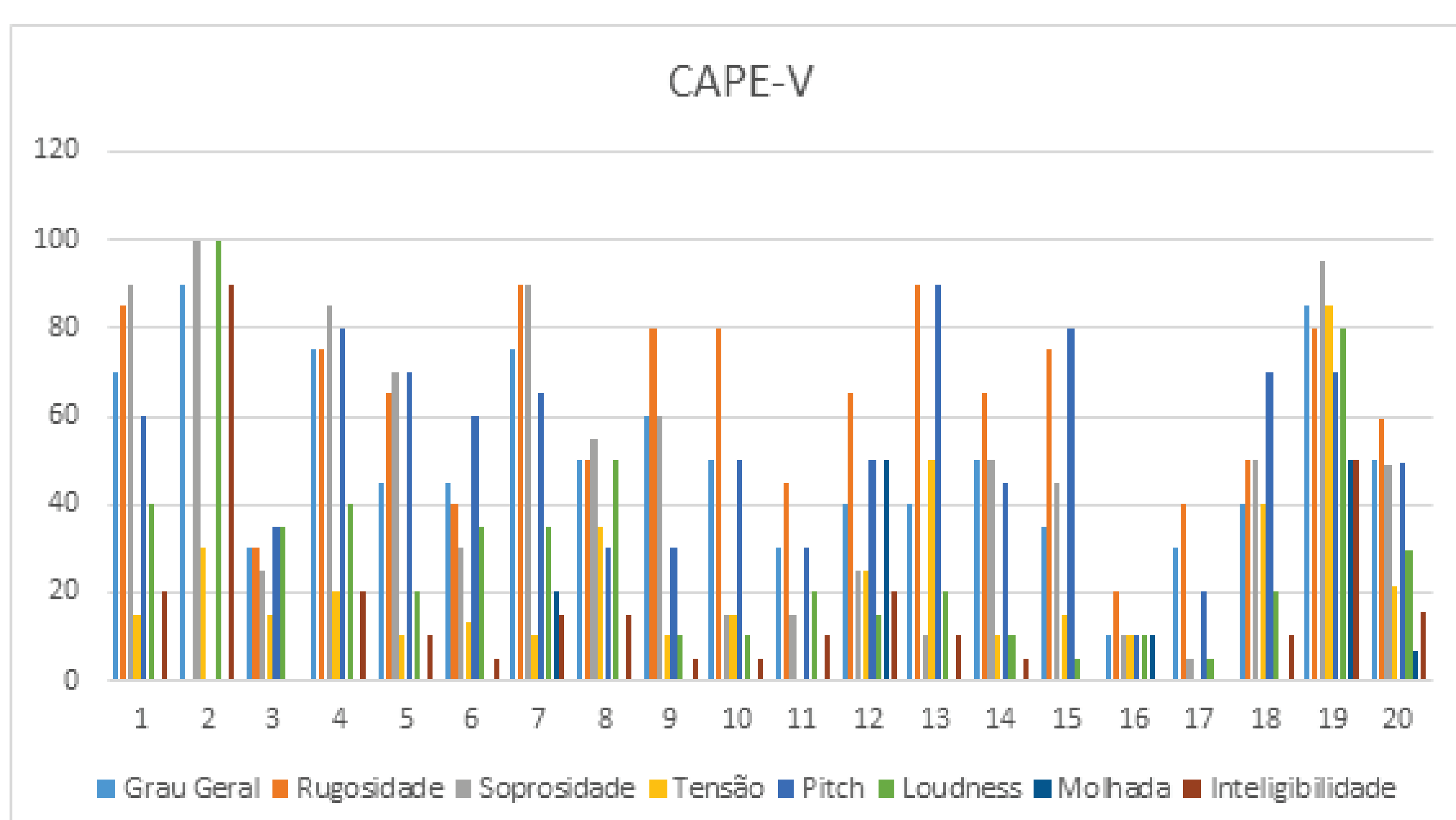
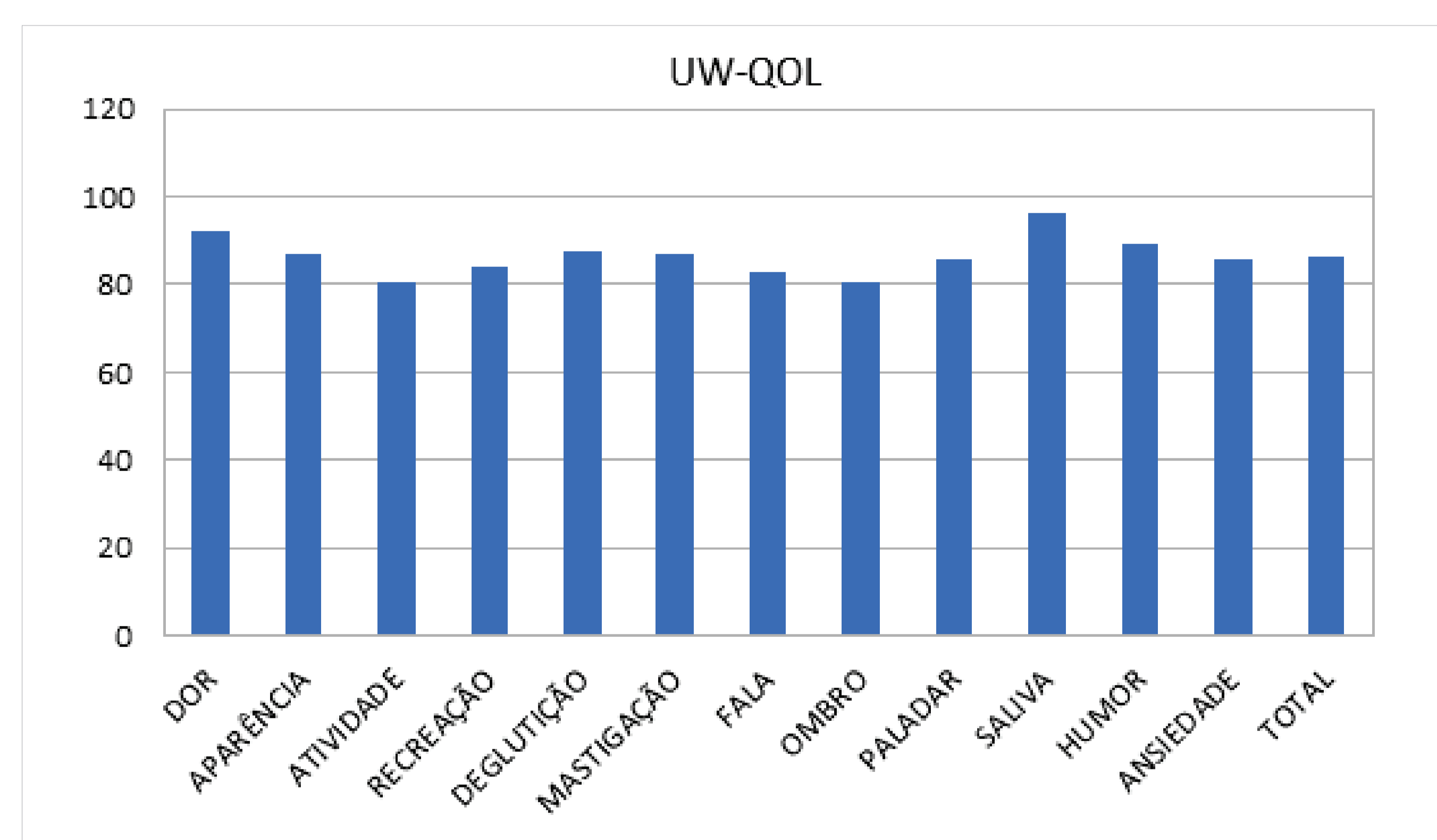
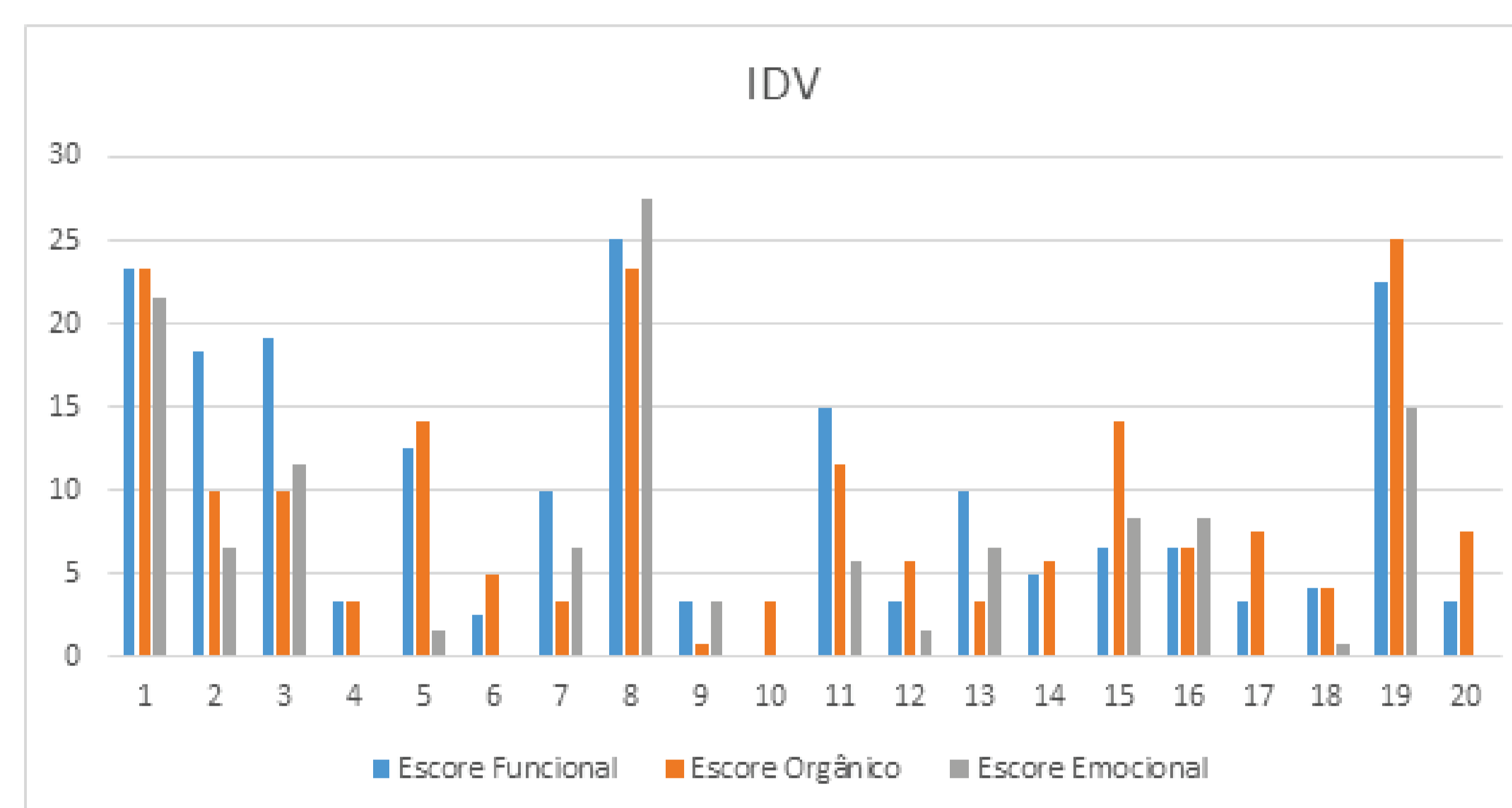
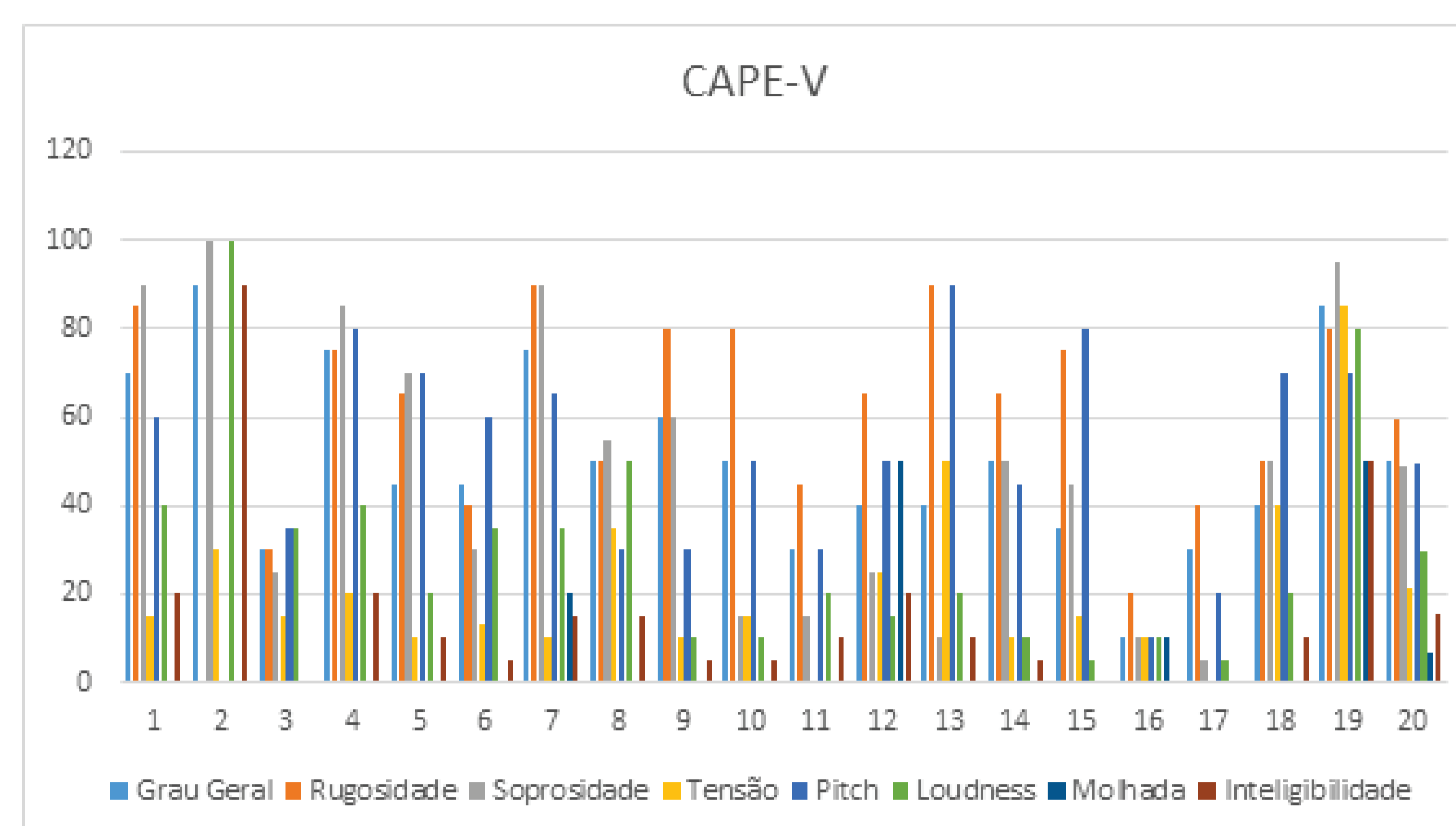
METHOD

We evaluated 20 patients submitted to Near-total Laryngectomy, for excision of neoplasia of the larynx, in the Head and Neck Department of a referral Cancer Hospital. We used the self-assessment protocol of the *Índice de Desvantagem Vocal (IDV)* protocol, the University of Washington Quality of Life Questionnaire (UW-QOL) and a perceptual-auditory analysis using the CAPE-V protocol. The protocols were applied through an interview with the patients in the Head and Neck Ambulatory of the Hospital. The data were analyzed and compared among the participants.

RESULTS

Ages between 48 and 82 years, with an average of approximately 65 years. About 94% of the patients were male, confirming what the Literature says. In the perceptual-auditory evaluation, in the general degree, the vocal quality deviated from mild to moderate in 68.5%, which did not disturb the speech intelligibility, and moderate to intense in 31.5%, which disrupted the speech intelligibility.

About 70% presented good speech intelligibility and 30% were classified as dysphonic in IDV. There was a positive correlation between the low quality of life and the low speech intelligibility.



CONCLUSION

Voice quality influences the overall quality of life of the patient who underwent Near-Total Laryngectomy, reinforcing the importance of Speech Therapy work.