



Oral Cancer Awareness and Knowledge Among Patients in a Dental Clinic

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OBJECTIVES

- Assess the level of the public awareness and knowledge about early signs, symptoms and risk factors of oral cancer among dental patients visiting NSU Dental Clinic in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.
- Correlate the awareness and knowledge levels according to age, gender, ethnicity, education levels and marital status.

BENEFITS

- Increase awareness and knowledge about Oral Cancer.
- Create awareness among patients to have their Oral Cancer screening.
- Dissemination of findings to the Dental Clinic for enhanced education/awareness campaigns.

BACKGROUND

- Oral cancers cause more than 130,000 deaths each year, with a 5-year survival rate of 47% for men and 55% for women. [1] [2, 3]
- Even though the accessibility and vision of the oral cavity is easy and an oral cancer screening can be performed without discomfort for the patient has not changed appreciably in last 40 years. [3-5]
- Incidence rates are currently increasing in many places around the world, particularly among younger individuals (aged less than 45 years). [1, 6]
- Early diagnosis is an effective way to increase survival rates, lower mortality rates, increase quality of life and the clinical outcome for patients. [3, 5]
- The primary risk factors for oral cancers include Tobacco and Alcohol.
- In the United States 75 % of the risk of cancer can be attributed to heavily use of this products. [5, 7]

STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

Estimated New Cases in 2024	58,450
of All New Cancer Cases	2.9%
Estimated Deaths in 2024	12,230
% of All Cancer Deaths	2.0%

Oral Cavity and Pharynx Cancer — Cancer Stat Facts

RESULTS

- Number of patients: 338
- ♀: 50.3% ♂ : 49.7%

AGE GROUP	% PATIENTS
18-29	23 (7%)
30-39	26 (8%)
40-49	74 (22%)
50-59	87 (26%)
60-69	70 (21%)
70+	52 (15%)

- Ethnicity
 - 47.3% White not Hispanic
 - 29.2% Hispanic
 - 17% African –American
 - No Filipino and American Indian /Alaskan
- Educational level:
 - College/University education 180 (55%)
 - High school education 94 (28.8%)
- Marital Status
 - 42.2 % married
 - 30% single
 - 19.5 divorced
- Information/knowledge about Oral Cancer:
 - 48.8% did not know anything
 - 45.15% knew a little
 - 6% knew a lot

Common Age Group Incidence

Age	Common Age Group Incidence for Oral Cancer					
	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70+
18-29	0	3	9	2	3	4
30-39	0	2	7	2	4	8
40-49	1	2	17	6	11	27
50-59	0	2	14	12	15	35
60-69	0	0	9	9	26	19
70+	0	2	4	5	10	23

Risk Factors

ORAL CANCER RISK FACTORS	Gender		Marital Status				
	Male N(%)	Female N(%)	Single N(%)	Married N(%)	Separated N(%)	Divorced N(%)	Widow N(%)
Smoking	118 (52.7)	106 (47.3)	65 (29.3)	95 (42.8)	6 (2.7)	46 (20.7)	10 (4.5)
Alcohol	42 (52.5)	38 (47.5)	23 (28.7)	29 (36.2)	3(3.7)	19(23.7)	6(7.5)
Sun exposure	44 (57.9)	32 (42.1)	20 (26.7)	35 (46.7)	2 (2.7)	14(18.7)	4 (5.3)
Eating hot, spicy foods	21 (56.8)	16 (43.2)	11 (29.7)	14 (37.8)	2 (5.4)	7 (18.9)	3 (8.1)
Frequent cheek or lip biting	19 (42.2)	26 (57.8)	10 (22.2)	19 (42.2)	4 (8.9)	9 (20)	3 (6.7)
Smokeless tobacco	81 (60.9)	52 (39.1)	45 (30)	53 (40.1)	5 (3.8)	24 (18.1)	5 (3.8)
Smoking spouse/partner	37 (48)	40 (52)	19 (25)	27 (35.5)	1 (1.32)	22 (28.9)	7 (9.2)
Family history of Oral Cancer	68 (45.3)	82 (54.7)	46 (31)	58 (39.1)	5 (3.4)	32 (21.6)	7 (4.7)
No idea/ Don't know	30 (46.9)	34 (53.1)	22 (33.5)	26 (40)	1 (1.54)	12 (18.4)	4 (6.1)

Have you heard about Oral Cancer?

Have you heard about Oral Cancer?	Gender	
	Male n (%)	Female n (%)
Primary care physician	26(19.5)	15(11.3)
Dentist	61(34.6)	51(28.9)
Other Health Care Provider	9(7.8)	7(6.0)
Family Member (p<0.5)	21(16.3)	9(7.0)
Friend	12(9.4)	18(14)
TV Advertisement (p<0.5)	33(21.7)	47(30.9)
Mail Advertisement	2(1.8)	2(1.8)
Radio Advertisement	10(8.3)	7(5.8)
Newspaper	20(16.0)	10(8.0)
Internet	24(18.0)	23(17.3)
Other	18(13.6)	22(16.7)

METHODS

- Collaborated and Validated survey
- Administration of the self-administered questionnaire/survey
- Data entry
- Statistical evaluation of data (JMP data program)

CONCLUSION

- Base on this information for this Cohort there is a significant lack awareness and knowledge about signs, symptoms and risk factors of Oral Cancer.
- This furthers supports the development of community base culturally competent oral health outreach for the purposes of education.
- Although early detection and screening leads to better oral health outcomes, the prevention of high risk behaviors and awareness of good oral health will impact positively the health care systems overall.
- Development of Oral Cancer awareness and prevention programs that can be provided by the health care professionals are needed in the community.

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