

Oral Cancer: Dental Practitioner Quick Poll

A South Texas Oral Health Network and National Dental PBRN Short Survey

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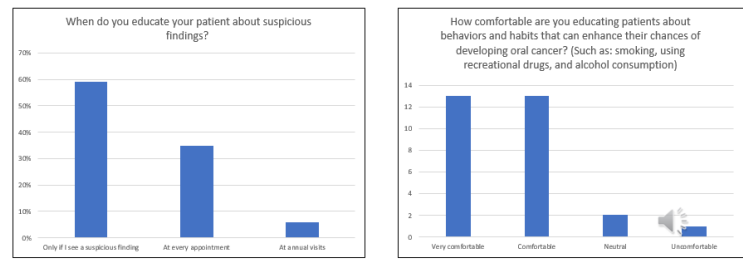
BACKGROUND

- Oral cancer is described as cancer located within the oral cavity and/or oral pharynx (mouth to back of throat).¹
- It is the sixth most common cancer in the world ¹
- It is predicted that new cases will exceed 31,000 per year ²



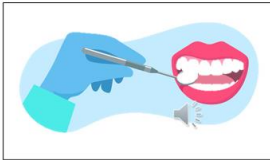
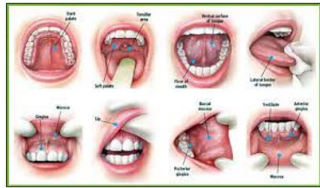
RESULTS

Most practitioners (72%) conducted oral screenings to include palpations of the head, neck lymph nodes, were comfortable/ very comfortable (90%) with educating patients but *only* upon a suspicious finding (59%).



CONCLUSIONS

- The findings of the study concluded that:
- Just over half were comfortable with educating patients on oral cancer but were divided on referring to a specialist if they saw a lesion.
 - Majority were interested in learning more in a study
- This supports that dentists:
- are uniquely positioned to screen for oral cancer (dependent on their comfort level)
 - educate patients for the early detection of oral cancer
 - Performance of oral screening (intraoral & extraoral), can help reduce oral cancer mortality.



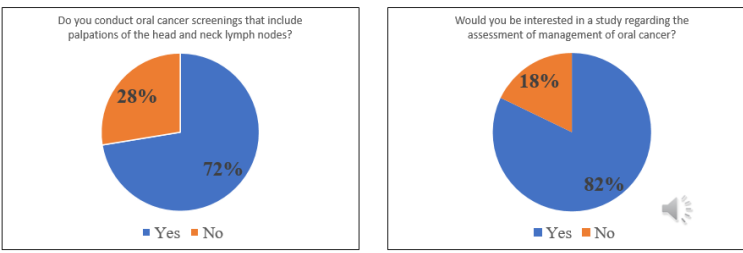
METHODS

- The STOHN released a 5-question survey (quick poll) via email to 29 practitioners
- Designed for Oral Cancer Awareness Month
- Assessed knowledge, awareness of causative factors, & practice behaviors for oral cancer
- Data was aggregated & analyzed as descriptive & frequency data.



RESULTS

- Practitioners were divided on immediate vs. delayed referral to a specialist (49% each, respectively).
- Majority (80%) of practitioners were interested in joining a study concerning the assessment of management of oral cancer.



CITATIONS

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3. Rodriguez-Moliner J, Miguélañez-Medrán BDC, Puente-Outiérrez C, Delgado-Somolinos E, Martín Carreras-Prezas C, Fernández-Farhali J, López-Sánchez AF. Association between Oral Cancer and Diet: An Update. *Nutrients.* 2021 Apr 15;13(4):1299. doi: 10.3390/nu13041299. PMID: 33920788; PMCID: PMC8071138.

