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 3
- It is predicted that new cases will exceed 31,000 per year 2

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, and practice behaviors for oral cancer
- Data was aggregated & analyzed as descriptive & frequency data.

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 (50%).

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.

CITATIONS