

Awareness to Oral Cancer

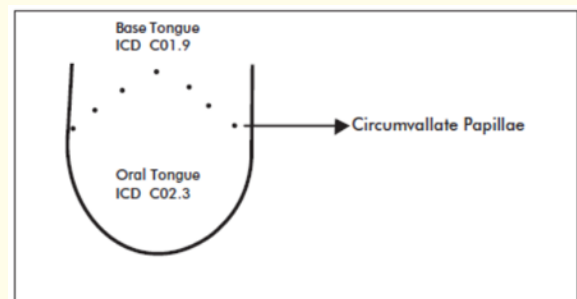
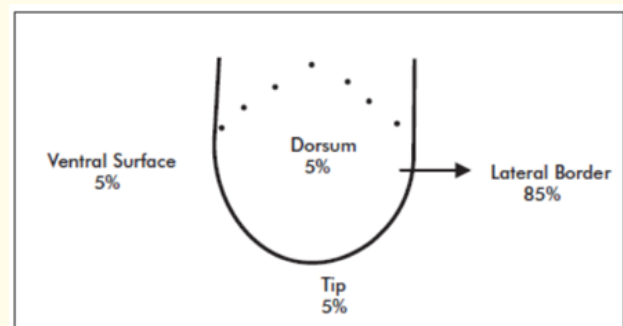
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Cancer is a leading cause of death worldwide. Globally cancer of various types effect millions of population and leads to loss of lives, oral cancer forms the fifteenth most common type of cancer worldwide. cancer incidence, prevalence and mortality in India among males cancers of lung, mouth, oesophagus and stomach are leading sites of cancer and among females cancer of breast, cervix are leading sites. Cancer research and management practices become one of the crucial tasks of importance for effective management and clinical care for patient, cancers of the oral cavity are significant public health problem in India. Traditionally gingivobuccal cancers are the commonest oral cavity cancers in the country as opposed to tongue and floor of mouth cancers which were common in the developed world. However incidence of oral tongue cancers has been increasing in last couple of years in India and today it is as common as gingivo-buccal cancers, while the broad principles of treatment of oral cancers are similar Tongue cancers are a different entity with distinct differences in work-up and management. Traditionally Gingivo-Buccal cancers were the most common oral cavity cancers in our country while tongue cancers were more common in the western world; Incidence of tongue cancer has shown an increase with the possible role of HPV. Oral Cavity cancer as the leading cause of mortality in men which was responsible for cancer-related death, Tongue forms the most common sub-site for oral cavity cancer in western world. While gingivo-buccal complex cancer was the predominant cancer in India, the incidence of tongue cancer is slowly increasing in our country as well. Oral tongue is an area limited posteriorly by circumvallate papillae most common site of involvement is lateral border of tongue accounting for 85% of cases (Figure 1). Dorsum, ventral surface and

tip of the tongue (5% each) form rest of the cases. Tongue cancers are a distinct clinical entity and must be differentiated from the cancers of the base of tongue (Figure 2).

**Figure 1:** Oral tongue and base tongue.**Figure 2:** Distribution of oral tongue cancer.