



## Evaluating the Dental Practitioners Awareness Regarding Oral Cancer and its Prevention in Lucknow City

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### Introduction

Oral cancer is a global health problem and is among the ten most common cancers worldwide with high morbidity and mortality rates. In India, the age standardized incidence rate of oral cancer is 12.6 per 100000 population.

### Objectives

To evaluate the dental practitioners awareness regarding oral cancer and its prevention in Lucknow city.

### Methodology

A questionnaire study was employed on 50 dentists of Lucknow city selected on a random basis to assess the dental practitioners. A 13 variable structured close ended and pretested questionnaire was administered by the examiner which was framed to include questions like examination of oral mucosa in asymptomatic patients, palpation of lymph nodes, assessment of risk factors, recent visit to an oncologist and efforts to quit habits, if any. The data so collected was analyzed using the SPSS 19.0 version.

### Discussion

Only a minority (10%) of the study participants examined for oral cancer on asymptomatic patient though, most of them new that oral cancer can remain asymptomatic. This finding is contradictory to the study done by Ranganth S., *et al.* [1] wherein 62.2% of practitioners performed oral cancer examination on asymptomatic patients. The practitioners in the present study keenly examined if patient had risk factor for oral cancer: 100% of dental professionals checked for signs of oral cancer if the patient had tobacco habits which was also the case with active studies of Mahsa Khodaparast, *et al* [2].

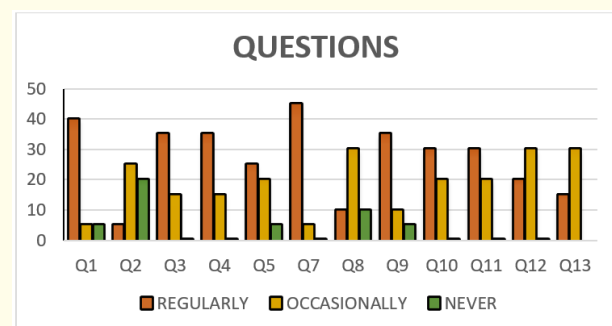


Figure 1

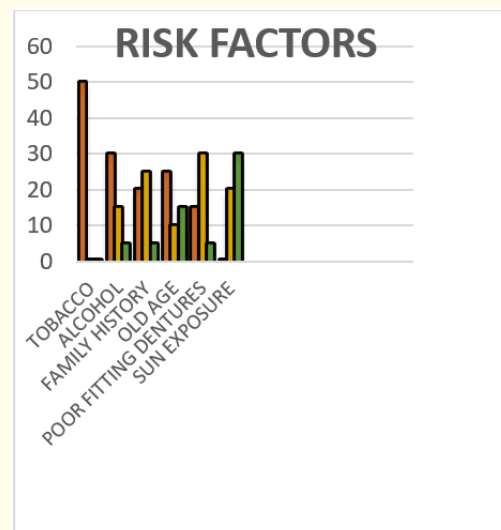


Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

### Limitations

As it was a questionnaire study, there may be higher chances of respondent bias.

### Clinical Relevance

The knowledge of modern day dentists regarding oral cancer and its prevention plays an important role in the early diagnosis and prompt treatment of the disease which plays a major role in the social and economic impact of the patients and community at large.

### Bibliography

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