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Short Communication

Oral cancer

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Cancer is caused when cells grow in an abnormal way. The major cause of oral cancer is the use of tobacco and alcohol consumption also result in oral cancer. This may occur in the lips or the tongue. The objective of this study is to see the awareness of post graduate students about the etiology of oral cancer. After the study the results suggest that some students are fully aware of oral cancer and some have little knowledge about this disease.

Keywords: Tobacco and alcohol consumption; betel chewing

INTRODUCTION

Cancer is a disease which is caused by abnormal growth of cells. Oral cancer is mainly caused by tobacco smoking and also by alcohol consumption but evidences support that betel chewing may also involve in causing oral cancer. The areas where people have habit of betel chewing show signs of tumors in the mucous lining leading to oral cancer (Ko et al., 1995). Basically the tobacco and alcohol consumption are regarded as the

major risk factor oral cancer in the developing countries. It is actually difficult to distinguish the effects of these agents separately but both of these factors are related to each other (Blot et al., 1988).

MATERIAL AND METHODOLOGY

This questionnaire was developed to check the awareness of students about the malnutrition. 39 students were selected from Bahauddin Zakariya University. The inclusion criteria were Mphil students and exclusion was that they were not the students of BS.

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Table 1. Questionnaire to evaluate awareness about etiology of oral cancer

Oral canceris a	Yes	No
1. Viral disease		
2. Bacterial disease		
3. Fungal disease		
4. Genetic disease		
5. Metabolic disease		
Ever suffered from oral cancer		
6. You		
7. Your family		
8. Your relative		
9. Your neighbor		
10. Your friend		
Oral canceris transmitted by		
11. Contacts or blood transfusion		
12. From parents to offspring		
Oral cancer may be treated by		
13. Medicines		
14. Surgery		
15. Do not worry, it is easily curable		

RESULT AND DESCISION

In Valongo, Portugal a questionnaire survey was conducted among 602 persons, which is basically to analyze the awareness of people about oral cancer. Only 68% actually know about mouth cancer. 89% are aware of the relationship among cancer and smoking and 94% agreed that the early detection of this disease helps in treatment. This survey concludes that few are aware of oral cancer but there is lack of awareness regarding this disease in people of Valonga, Portugal.

Awareness of students about etiology of oral cancer is given in table 2. 100% of male students said that it is not a viral disease and 44% female said it is not a viral disease but 66% female students suggest that it is a viral disease, so overall 66% students said it is a viral disease. 100% of male students said that it is not a bacterial disease and 68% female students also said that it is not a bacterial disease, so overall 78% people said that it is not a bacterial disease. 100% male students said that it is not a fungal disease and 68% female students also said that it is not a fungal disease but 22% female students said that it is a fungal disease, so overall 78% students said that it is not a fungal disease. 50% of male students said it is not a genetic disease and 50% of male students said, it is a genetic disease but 60% of female students said it is not a genetic disease, so overall 78% students said it is not a genetic disease. 50% of male students said it is a metabolic disease and 50% said it is not a metabolic disease and 60% of female students said it is not a

metabolic disease so, overall 57% students said it is not a metabolic disease. 2% of students said that they have suffered from mouth cancer and 98% said they don't suffer from mouth cancer and 2% female students said they have suffered from mouth cancer and 98% female said they don't suffer from mouth cancer so, overall 2% students suffer from cancer and 98% students said they don't suffer from it. 2% students said that their family member suffered from mouth cancer and 2% female students said that their family suffered from it and over 2% students said that any of their family member suffered from mouth cancer. 100% male students said that no one in their relatives suffered from it and 6% of female students said that their relative have suffered from mouth cancer so overall 94% students said that no one in their relatives suffered from mouth cancer. 100% male students said that no one in their neighbor suffered from mouth cancer and 4% female students said that their neighbor have suffered from mouth cancer and 96% female students said that no one in their neighbor suffered from mouth cancer so overall 96% students said no one in their neighbor suffered from mouth cancer. 100% male students said that no one in their friends suffer from this disease but 2% of female students said that any of their friend have suffered from it so overall 98% students said no one in their friend circle have suffered from this disease. 100% of male said that oral cancer is not transmitted by contacts or blood transfusion and 47% of female students said it is transmitted by contacts or blood transfusion and 53% female students said it is not transmitted by contacts or blood transfusion so overall 63% students said it is not transmitted by contacts or blood transfusion and 47% students said that it is transmitted by contacts or blood transfusion. 2% of male students said it is transferred from parents to offspring and 98 male students said it is not transferred from parents to offspring but 38% female students said it is transferred from parents to offspring and 62% said it is not transferred from parents to offspring so overall 72% Of students said it is not transferred from parents to offspring and 28% said it is transferred from parents to offspring. 100% male students said that it is not treated by medicines but 94% female students said it can be treated by medicines and only 6% female students said it cannot be treated by medicines so overall 13% students said it cannot be treated by medication and 87% said it can be treated by medication. 100% of male students said that it cannot be treated by surgery but 78% female students said it can be treated by surgery and 22% of female students said it cannot be treated by surgery so overall 87% students said it can be treated by medicines and 13% students said it cannot be treated by surgery. 100% male students said that it is curable but 91% of female students it is not curable and 9% said it is not curable so overall 78% students said that it is not curable and 22% it is curable.

Table 2. Awareness about etiology of Oral cancer: Views of Postgraduate Biology Students

Questions	Male		Female		Total	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
1. Viral disease	0%	100%	66%	44%	66%	34%
2. Bacterial disease	0%	100%	22%	68%	22%	78%
3. Fungal disease	0%	100%	22%	68%	22%	78%
4. Genetic disease	50%	50%	40%	60%	30%	70%
5. Metabolic disease	50%	50%	47%	53%	43%	57%
Ever suffered from oral cancer						
6. You	2%	98%	2%	98%	2%	98%
7. Your family	2%	98%	2%	98%	2%	98%
8. Your relatives	0%	100%	6%	94%	6%	94%
9. Your neighbor	0%	100%	4%	96%	4%	96%
10. Your friends	0%	100%	2%	98%	2%	98%
Oral cancer is transmitted by						
11. Contacts or blood transfusion	0%	100%	47%	53%	37%	63%
12. From parents to offspring	2%	98%	38%	62%	28%	72%
Oral cancer may be treated by						
13. Medicines	0%	100%	94%	4%	87%	13%
14. Surgery	0%	100%	78%	22%	87%	13%
15. Do not worry, it is easily curable	0%	100%	9%	91%	22%	78%

CONCLUSION

This is concluded that some of the post graduate students are aware of etiology of oral cancer and some are not fully aware of etiology of oral cancer.

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