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Chemotherapy patients and oral sores

Mouth sores, mouth ulcers or Oral Mucositis (OM) are abrasions of the mucosal layer of the oral cavity. OM is an important issue for cancer patients since most patients undergoing chemotherapy or radiation therapy face a risk of developing OM. In some patients these ulcers become so severe that they have to delay or discontinue the cancer treatment. The objective of the project was to conduct a systematic search for most prevalent drugs and type of cancers associated with OM, a knowledge not well documented. Our research on the extent of cancer drugs leading to OM revealed that about 38 drugs cause OM in >30% of the patients. Secondly, an analysis of number of drugs that cause OM in different cancers revealed that 20 drugs cause OM in breast cancer, 19 in lung cancer, 16 in non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, 13 in acute lymphocytic leukemia, 12 in melanoma and 11 in ovarian cancer. Further, the data from NCI website revealed five cancers-bladders, breast, colorectal, lung and prostate-encompass a significant population of patients that are suffering from OM induced by chemotherapy. Often medical professionals circumvent OM by maintain good oral health e.g. by regular use of oral rinse. However, most oral rinses contain alcohol and cannot be used by patients with OM. CloSYS oral rinses are alcohol free, sulfate free, pH balanced and contain stabilized chlorine dioxide. Because of its non-irritating nature and antibacterial and sanitizing properties of stabilized chlorine dioxide, CloSYS unflavored oral rinse is most appropriate choice for circumventing OM in cancer patients. About 40 customers and 140 dentists and hygienists responded to our survey. Most respondents recorded relief using CloSYS oral rinse in conditions such as dry mouth and mouth sores.

Biography

James L Ratcliff is the Chairman of the Board and CEO of Rowpar Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Scottsdale, AZ, maker of the CloSYS brands of oral care products (available from Eskine Dental and Henry Schein Hallas in Australia). He later served as Senior Research Scientist, Professor and Director, Center for the Study of Higher Education at the Pennsylvania State University. He was a Professor and Program Head for higher education at Iowa State University. He has authored 120 articles, books, book chapters, co-inventor on over 24 patents and patents pending. He is active Member of the Arizona Biotechnology Association, American Academy of Oral and Systemic Health, American Education Research Association and the International Association for Dental Research. He has received his PhD in Higher Education from Washington State University, MA in History from Washington State University and a BA from Utah State University.

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