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Detection of oral dysplasia: Endeavors at advancing front

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Head and neck cancer is the sixth most common cancer and oral cancer is the 11th most common cancer in the world. Tobacco use, in any form, and excessive alcohol use are the major risk factors for oral cancer. With dietary deficiencies, these factors cause more than 90 percent of oral cancers. Preventing tobacco and alcohol use and increasing the consumption of fruits and vegetables can potentially prevent the vast majority of oral cancers. Early diagnosis is the most effective way of reducing the individual burden of the disease, decreasing morbidity and mortality and improving quality of life. For early diagnosis, healthcare providers should perform oral cancer examinations as part of their patient care regime, and need to be knowledgeable about early signs of oral carcinoma. Oral cancer awareness among the public should also be improved. The various advanced diagnostic aids include Vital staining- Toluidine Blue/Lugol's Iodine, Vizilite, Brush Cytology, Tissue Auto fluorescence-VELscope, *in vivo* Confocal Microscopy, DNA Ploidy & Quantification of nuclear DNA content, Tumor Markers & Bio Markers, PCR-Based diagnostic aids, Auto fluorescence Spectroscopy and, Fluorescence Photography. Dental health care workers have a duty to detect benign and potentially malignant oral lesions such as oral cancer and are generally the best trained health care professionals in this field. The dental practitioner should take the biopsy which should be sent to an oral/head and neck pathologist for histological evaluation. The purpose of this poster is to showcase the various advanced diagnostic aids in the early diagnosis of oral cancer as early detection/prevention is better than cure, their merits, demerits and challenges.

Biography

Sonali Sachdev was exposed to her passion for dentistry & dedication to high standards of care, & this ultimately led her to choose the vocation as well. She is a fervent believer in preventive and conservative dentistry. Her zeal and passion for dentistry has been consistent. She is an avid participant in continuing dental education and writes articles for medical and dental blogs to educate the masses.

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