



Oral Cancer Awareness Among the Fifth Stage Student of Basrah Dental College

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ABSTRACT

background: the early detection of oral cancers gives the greatest chance of curing and the delay in presentation has a significant impact on the associated morbidity and mortality. the lack of dental student knowledge in early cancer detection has been shown to contribute to delays in referral and treatment. the aim of this study was to investigate the oral cancer awareness among a group of fifth stage of dental student by assessing their knowledge of detection and prevention of oral cancer.

materials and methods: a questionnaire based study was designed. the questionnaire was delivered to 50 students assessing oral examination method, knowledge of oral cancer risk factors, clinical appearance and the most common site, point of referral and requests for further information.

conclusion: this study highlights need for more education of the students on oral cancer.

KEYWORDS : oral cancer, fifth stage dental student, awareness, basrah introduction

Introduction

considered a major health problem, especially in the developing countries

(1). globally, oral cancer ranks eleventh between the most common cancers, where more than 500,000 patients are estimated to have oral cancer globally and with approximately 389,000 new cases per annum

(2). many epidemiological studies have revealed that incidences of oral cancer increased with smoking, alcohol intake and age (3). typically, oral cancers some time take several years to progress to advanced stages; treatment of oral cancer in earlier stage is less complicated with higher survival rate (4). otherwise the advanced stage needed invasive treatment which may lead to poorer quality of life and disfigurement for patients (4). therefore, oral cavity examination of dental patients by inspection and palpation is essential for early detection of suspected oral cancer. dental student already have easy accessibility to the populations' of oral cavity; hence they arguably bear the great share of responsibility in detection and diagnosis of oral cancer (5). so the aim of this study is to assess the level of knowledge, attitudes and behaviors of the fifth stage of dental student toward oral cancer.

Materials And Methods

this descriptive cross sectional study was conducted using self-administrated questionnaire, which has been designed and used by carter and ogden (6). the questionnaire was tested on 50 fifth stage student of basrah dental college as a study to assess uniformity of interpretation, and there was no major corrections were necessary. a total of 50 (18males / 32 females) student, this study achieved during the year of 2014-2015, were the student received the questionnaire through papers and were kindly asked to return the filled questionnaire in 7 days.

six questions were designed to investigate whether the dental student screen the oral mucosa during routine examination, especially if patient was at high risk to oral cancer.

the questionnaire also assess the dentists knowledge about the risk factors for oral cancer, and if they educate their patients about such factors. the questionnaire also designed to assess the dental student knowledge regarding the different clinical appearance, the associated changes of oral cancer and the most common sites for oral cancer.

the questions also screened the fifth stage of dental college of basrah point of view regarding referring the suspected oral cancer patient and their opinion about the sufficiency of their individual knowledge on oral cancer detection, and prevention and if they need information further information regarding oral cancer. the questionnaire estimat-

ed to require approximately 10 minutes to be completed.

Results

the questions was returned by 50 fifth stage dental student, total of the accepted questions was 50 which represent 100% of the sent questions. the characteristics of participated 5th stage dental students is shown in table1. only 46(92%) of 5th student dental college reported that they routinely examine oral mucosa of their patient, while 4(8%) only screen mucosa if the patient was of the cancer risk group table2. when asked the dentists "what would you considered as a risk factors for oral cancer" in open question which provided wide range of response, therefore the dentist how inform her/his patient about risk factors (smoking, alcohol, light exposure, dental factor, dietary factor and hpv) answer about 15(30%) while 35(70%) didn't inform the patient about risk factor of oral cancer. in this study 30(60%) have confident about diagnosis and feel that they have sufficient knowledge and considered with detection and prevention of oral cancer, while 20(40%) unconfident about diagnosis of oral cancer apparent, about 4(8%) of students preferred to refer the patient to the maxillofacial surgery, while 46(92%) like more training and inform about oral cancer and most of them preferred continuous education program, about 17(34%) of student have suspected premalignant condition (erythroplakia), 11(64%) of them inform the patient, while 6(36%) of them not inform the patient because they were not sure, and 33(66%) not found anything during examination.

Discussion

this study was the first study to assess oral cancer awareness among the fifth stage of dental college in basrah. this study used as minimum number of question to evaluate knowledge regarding oral cancer and to encourage the responses and appeared to work well when previously employed. a total of 92% of sample examines the patients oral mucosa. screened the oral mucosa was lower than found in similar studies on general.

from participants who declared that they don't screen patient oral mucosa 8% only screened the mucosa of risky patient and this also was lower the previous mentioned studies.

dentist most identified the risk factor of smoking and alcohol, in spite of the strong relationship between oral cancer and alcohol consumption, thus the role of alcohol as a risk factor for oral cancer has to be emphasis in future. the combination of smoking and alcohol consumption exert a synergistic effect that substantially increased the risk factor.

the ulceration was well indicated by dentist, but erythroplakia were not well identified in spite of malignant transformation rate erythroplakia which could be at least 50%.

highly rate of student believed they have information about oral cancer prevention and detection but not sufficient knowledge .more than 94 % of student needed more information regarding oral cancer , which is almost similar result of previous studies in uk and bagdad university .this study showed the student must take a lot of awareness regarding oral cancer .therefore extensive continuous education programs in oral cancer are necessary in dentistry college of basrah to increase the level of awareness about oral cancer for the fifth stage of dental college in basrah

Risk Factor For Oral Cancer:

- 1-smoking
- 2-alcohol
- 3-dental factor:
- 1-sharp tooth or filling
- 2-bad oral hygiene
- 3-ill-fitted denture
- 4-dietary factor:
- 1-vitamine deficiency
- 2-spacy food
- 3-high fat diet

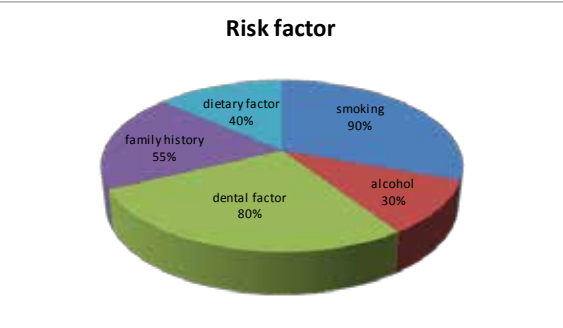


Figure1:distribution of risk factor identified

Table2:distrubtion of response to question

	yes			no		
	total	male	female	total	male	fema le
do you examine patient’s oral mucosa routinely?	46	16 (88%)	30 (93.75%)	4	2 (12%)	2 (6.25%)
do you inform your patient about risk factors for oral cancer?	15	7 (38.8%)	8 (25%)	35	11 (61.2%)	24 (27%)
do you feel that you have sufficient knowledge concerned with detection and prevention of oral cancer?	30	9 (50%)	21 (65.6%)	20	9 (50%)	11 (34.4%)
would you like more information or training on oral cancer?	46	17 (94.4%)	29 (90.6%)	4	1 (5.6%)	3 (9.4%)
did you find in oral exam of the patient premalignant condition [erythroplakia]if yes inform the patient or not	17	2(28.6%) non inform pt. 5(71.45 0 inform pt)	4(40%) non inform pt. 6(60%) inform pt	33	11(61%)	22(71.3%

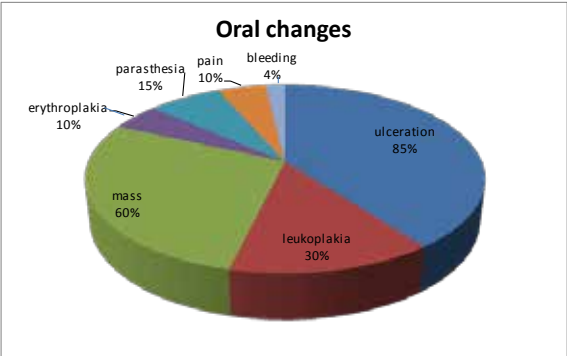


Figure2:distribution of oral changes identified

Table1:demographic and practice characteristic of response

characteristic	no	%
gander	50	100%
male	18	32%
female	32	64%
age	50	(22_27)
male	18	(22_27)
female	32	(22_24)

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