

AWARENESS AMONG MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS ABOUT ORAL PATHOLOGY UNDER IN HOSPITAL IN GREATER NOIDA, GAUTAM BUDH NAGAR, UP, INDIA – A QUESTIONNAIRE BASED STUDY

Oral Pathology

Dr. Swati Choudhary	Associate Professor, M.D.S, Department Of Oral Pathology. I.T.S. Dental College And Hospital, Greater Noida.
Dr. Aditya Saxena	Professor, M.D.S, Department Of Pedodontics. I.T.S. Dental College And Hospital, Greater Noida.
Dr. Kehkashan Ehsan Azmi	Assistant Professor, M.D.S, Department Of Oral Pathology. I.T.S. Dental College And Hospital, Greater Noida.
Utsav	Student, Department Of Oral Pathology. I.T.S. Dental College And Hospital, Greater Noida.
Sanya	Student, Department Of Oral Pathology. I.T.S. Dental College And Hospital, Greater Noida.
Somya	Student, Department Of Oral Pathology. I.T.S. Dental College And Hospital, Greater Noida.
Tanya	Student, Department Of Oral Pathology. I.T.S. Dental College And Hospital, Greater Noida.

ABSTRACT

Context: There is limited information on the awareness of oral pathology among medical professionals in Greater Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, India. **Aim:** This study aimed to assess and improve the awareness of oral pathology among medical professionals in Greater Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, India. **Setting and Design:** A cross-sectional, questionnaire-based study was conducted in the U.P. Health Service Department, Gautam Budh Nagar. **Methods and Material:** A validated Google Forms questionnaire was utilized to collect demographic data and evaluate the participants' knowledge of oral pathology. Data were collected between November and December 2023. **Statistical analysis used:** Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics. **Results:** 79.7% of respondents were aware of oral pathology, with 66.1% engaging in discussions with oral pathologists, and 33.9% referring cases to general pathologists. Additionally, 74.6% demonstrated awareness of pre-malignant and malignant oral disorders, and 62.7% possessed knowledge of grading oral lesions and carcinomas. 67.8% were aware of recent advancements in histological examination techniques. Knowledge of diagnostic measures such as cytology and immunohistochemistry was reported at 71.2% and 64.4%, respectively. **Conclusion:** This study highlights the importance of oral pathology in medical practice and the need for ongoing education to improve interdisciplinary cooperation and patient care outcomes.

KEYWORDS

Oral pathology, medical professionals, awareness, histopathology.

INTRODUCTION

Oral pathology, a vital discipline in dentistry and medicine, focuses on diagnosing and understanding diseases of the mouth and its surrounding structures.¹ From common infections to severe conditions, it encompasses a broad spectrum of oral and maxillofacial disorders.² This study aims to assess and enhance awareness of oral pathology among medical professionals in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India.

Utilizing a printed and validated questionnaire, the research seeks to address the limited information regarding this specialty's awareness among healthcare providers in the region, emphasizing its critical role in early disease detection, diagnosis, treatment planning, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

The Google form questionnaire regarding oral pathology specialty was circulated to medical professionals in U.P. Health Service Department in Gautam Budh Nagar. It consists of demographic data of participants, including their age, gender, years of experience etc. This research was carried out between November 2023 & December 2023. Out of 100 questionnaire, only completely filled questionnaire was received, rest were excluded.

Specialty wise, the participants were grouped into

- 1) Undergraduate
- 2) Post graduate
- 3) Assistant surgeon/ causality medical officer
- 4) Civil surgeon
- 5) Junior consultant

Statistical Analysis

Descriptive statistics like mean and percentages were used for analysis.

RESULTS

The demographic data of response to basic questions to oral pathology are summarized in table 1

TABLE 1

The demographic data of the participants

A) Gender

Male – 30.5%
Female- 69.5%

B) Age group

Under 25 years – 33.9%
25-35 years- 32.2%
35-45 years-18.6%
45-55 years-10.2%
55-65 years-5.1%

C) Years of practice

1-5 years- 49.2%
6-10 years-28.8%
11-15 years-11.9%
16-20 years-6.8%
21-30 years-3.3%

Participants response to basic questions on oral pathology

A) Heard about oral pathology

Yes-79.7%
No-20.3%

B) Reference of histopathology report if pathology in oral cavity

General pathologist-33.9%
Oral pathologist-66.1%

C) New terminology potentially malignant oral disorders and histopathological appearance

Yes-74.6%
No- 25.4%

D) Aware about histological grading of common oral cancer (squamous cell carcinoma)

Yes-62.7%
No-37.3%

E) Aware of cytology in oral lesions

Yes-67.8%
No-32.2%

F) Aware of immunohistochemistry in oral lesions
Yes-71.2%
No-28.8%
G) Aware of immunofluorescence in oral lesions
Yes-64.4%
No-35.6%
H) Aware of special stains in oral lesions
Yes-69.5%
No-30.5%
I) Aware of differential diagnosis for a swelling in maxillofacial region
Yes-72.4%
No-27.6%
J) Aware of systemic sequelae and complications of various intraoral lesions
Yes-66.1%
No-33.9%
K) Aware of various treatment modalities specific to various oral pathologies
Yes-67.2%
No-32.8%
L) Do you consider referring a patient with an oral pathology/lesion to a dental hospital for consultance /treatment
Yes – 78%
No-22%

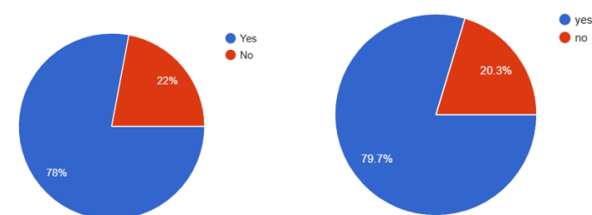


Fig 1

- Do you consider referring a patient with an oral pathology/lesion to a dental hospital for consultance /treatment
- Heard about oral pathology

DISCUSSION

This study was conducted among medical professionals in Greater Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar district to assess the awareness about oral pathology subject. 30-40 age groups were in majority in the study. Majority of the responses receiver were from females. According to designation, majority of responses were received from general physician. 79.7% of medical professionals surveyed, were aware about the oral pathology specialty. 66.1% of medical professionals discuss the concerned cases to oral pathologist. 33.9% of medical professionals refer the oral pathology concerned cases to the general pathologist for histopathological examination. 74.6% medical professionals were aware about the oral pre-malignant and malignant disorders and their histopathological interpretation. 62.7% of medical professionals were aware about the gradings of various oral lesions and carcinomas. 67.8% of medical professionals knew about various recent advancements in the histological examination of tissues and cells. 66.1% of medical professionals are aware about the systemic sequelae and complications of various oral disease. 78% of medical professionals you consider referring a patient with an oral pathology/lesion to a dental hospital for consultance/treatment. Regarding the awareness of various histopathological diagnostic measures in oral lesions the medical professionals showed maximum responses to cytology (71.2%) and immunohistochemistry (64.4%).

Cytology or Cytopathology is usually employed in examining cells from body tissues to determine the pathology and giving its final diagnosis. Immunohistochemistry is routinely used for oral cancers, odontogenic tumors ,and spindle cell neoplasms.^{3,4,5} The role of immunoflourescence and special stains in the diagnosis of oral lesions in highly appreciated in the literature. Biopsy of diseased tissue confirms the pathology and helps in evaluating the extent of disease.^{6,7}

The limitations of the present study is smaller sample size and methodology. A larger sample size will be carried out for future study.

CONCLUSION

Oral pathology is essential in the medical field for its role in diagnosing oral diseases, identifying systemic health issues, guiding treatment plans, contributing to research and education, and ultimately improving patient outcomes and overall public health. It bridges the gap between dentistry and medicine, highlighting the interconnectedness of oral and systemic health.

Key Message: Oral pathology is crucial for diagnosing oral diseases, detecting systemic health issues, and guiding treatment plans. While awareness among medical professionals is relatively high, further education and larger studies are needed to bridge knowledge gaps and enhance interdisciplinary collaboration.

REFERENCES

- Shamim T. Forensic odontology. J Coll Physicians Surg Pak. 2012;22:240–5. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]
- Gowhar O. Prospective of oral pathology as profession-a cross sectional study. Internat J Contemp Med Res. 2017;4:1490–93. [Google Scholar]
- Roy S. Genesis of oral pathology as a distinct dental specialty. Oral Maxillofac Pathol J. 2016;7:673–5. [Google Scholar]
- Govindarajan S, Muruganandhan J, Raj AT. Oral pathology in India: Current scenario and future directions. World J Dent. 2017;8:429. [Google Scholar]
- Einstein A. From the author's desk: Oral pathology as a dental specialty in India. J Oral Maxillofac Pathol. 2014;18:1. [PMC free article] [PubMed] [Google Scholar]
- Indirani VL. Critical evaluation of Swot analysis (South Indian scenario) J Oral Maxillofac Pathol. 2003;7:5–7. [Google Scholar]
- Shamim T, Renjini PS. Dental traits of congenital syphilis revisited in dental outpatient department (OPD) Head Neck Pathol. 2017;11:517–8. [PMC free article] [PubMed] [Google Scholar]