

# Oral cancer: knowledge, practices and opinions of dentists in Ireland

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## Appendix 1 – Questionnaire

### SECTION 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION

#### 1. Please state your gender:

Female  Male

#### 2. Please state your age group in years:

≤25  26-35  36-45  46-55  ≥55

#### 3. Please indicate year of graduation

before 1980  1990-1999  
 1980-1989  2000-2010

#### 4. How many years have you practiced as a dentist?

<1  1-5  6-10  11-15  >15

### SECTION 2 – RISK FACTORS OF ORAL CANCER

#### 5. Oral cancer affects oral cavity and its contents, oropharynx and lips. The risk factors are: (please tick boxes as appropriate)

Alcohol  Prior oral cancer lesion  
 Use of spicy food  Sun exposure  
 HPV  Older age  
 Tobacco use  Don't know  
 Prior radiotherapy to head & neck  
 Low consumption of fruits & vegetables

#### 6. Most oral cancer is diagnosed at the age:

20-29  30-39  40-49  50-59  >60

#### 7. I assess the following when taking an adult patient history:

(please tick as appropriate)

Patient current smoking status  
 Patient present alcohol use  
 Patient previous smoking status  
 Patient previous alcohol use  
 Patient history of H&N cancer  
 None of the above

#### 8. Please tick only one box on each line:

I provide counselling in tobacco use cessation for patients who smoke  
 Always  Most of the time  Sometimes  Never

I provide counselling in alcohol use cessation/moderation for patients who use alcohol excessively

Always  Most of the time  Sometimes  Never

### SECTION 3 – DIAGNOSTIC CONCEPTS REGARDING ORAL CANCER

#### 9. Please tick only one box on each line:

Early detection improves 5-year survival rate

Agree  Disagree  Undecided

Patient is usually asymptomatic during initial stages of the disease

Agree  Disagree  Undecided

Early lesions are usually small red, painless areas on the mucosa

Agree  Disagree  Undecided

Oral cancer most often is diagnosed at advanced stages

Agree  Disagree  Undecided

#### 10. Most common type of oral cancer is:

Squamous cell carcinoma  
 Adenocarcinoma  
 Don't know

#### 11. The two most common sites for intra-oral lesions are:

(please tick only two boxes)

Oropharynx  Tongue  
 Soft palate  Hard palate  
 Floor of the mouth  
 Don't know

**12. The two premalignant lesions associated with oral cancer are:**

- Nicotine stomatitis       Frictional keratosis  
 Leukoplakia               Leucoedema  
 Erythroplakia             Don't know

**13. What area of the tongue is most affected by cancer?**

- Ventral lateral border       Root of the tongue  
 Apex of the tongue         Body of the tongue  
 Undecided

**14. Please indicate which category of patients receives intra and extra oral soft tissue examination to detect oral cancer in your practice during routine visits? (please tick only one box)**

- All adult (age 18+) patients regardless of their tobacco and/or alcohol use  
 Only patients 40-60 years old who use tobacco and/or alcohol excessively  
 Only patients 60+ who use tobacco and/or alcohol excessively  
 I do not provide such examination

**15. I perform intra and extra oral soft tissue examination to detect oral cancer in adult edentulous patients when they present to dental practice:**

- Agree     Disagree     I do not perform such examination

**16. When oral cancer is suspected lymphatic nodes in the neck feel: (please tick only one box)**

- Hard, painless mobile or fixed       Soft painful mobile  
 Soft, painless mobile or fixed         Don't know

**SECTION 4 – DENTISTS' OPINIONS****17. Should dentists provide tobacco use counselling?**

- Yes     No     Don't know

**18. Should dentists provide alcohol use cessation counselling?**

- Yes     No     Don't know

**19. Please tick only one box on each line:**

I am adequately trained to provide tobacco cessation education

- Agree     Disagree     Undecided

I am adequately trained to provide alcohol cessation education

- Agree     Disagree     Undecided

I am adequately trained to identify premalignant or malignant lesions associated with oral cancer

- Agree     Disagree     Undecided

I am adequately trained to palpate the lymphatic nodes and identify lymphadenopathies associated with oral cancer

- Agree     Disagree     Undecided

My oral cancer knowledge and training is current

- Agree     Disagree     Undecided

**20. How would you rate your formal undergraduate training curricula regarding oral cancer prevention and early detection?**

- Very poor     Average     Outstanding  
 Poor         Good         Don't know

**21. I attended continuing education (seminar, conference, course) regarding oral cancer prevention and early detection:**

- In the last 2 years     In the last 10 years     Never  
 In the last 5 years     More than 10 years ago

**22. Would you be interested in continuing education (seminar, conference, study day) regarding oral cancer prevention and early detection?**

- Yes     No     Don't know

**23. If you answered "Yes" to the previous questions what aspects of primary and secondary oral cancer prevention would you be interested in?**

Oral cancer risk factors

- Yes     No     Don't know

Tobacco cessation education

- Yes     No     Don't know

Recognition of premalignant and malignant lesions associated with oral cancer

- Yes     No     Don't know

Suspicious lesions referral guidelines

- Yes     No     Don't know

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**24. I have patient education materials (brochures, leaflets, posters) regarding prevention and early detection of oral cancer in my practice**

- Yes     No     Don't know

**25. Changes made in 2010 budget regarding dental services entitlements may affect prevention and early detection of oral cancer?**

- Yes     No     Undecided