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Oral malignancies among patients presenting to dermatology OPD at a tertiary care centre

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Introduction & Objectives:

Compared to western countries, India has high incidence of oral cancers. Age adjusted incidence rate in India is 44.8% and 23.7% in males and females, respectively. Several aetiological factors like smoking, tobacco chewing, alcohol, dietary deficiencies and dentures are responsible. Common sites involved are mucosal lips, buccal mucosa, tongue, hard palate, alveolar ridge, floor of mouth and retromolar trigone. The major types of oral carcinoma are mucoepidermoid carcinoma, adenoid cystic carcinoma, oral mucosal squamous cell carcinoma (omSCC), oral verrucous carcinoma (OVC), and oral mucosal melanoma (OMM). omSCC accounts for the majority (90%) of all oral malignancies. OVC is a low-grade, well-differentiated variant of omSCC that can be locally aggressive but that has a low likelihood of metastasis. The objective of current study was to study various oral malignancies among patients presenting to dermatology O.P.D in a tertiary care centre.

Materials & Methods:

It was a cross sectional observational study which was conducted in the outpatient department of Dermatology, at a tertiary care centre over a period of 2 years. We included all patients of any age who presented with oral lesions suggestive of malignancy. Thorough evaluation and examination were done for each patient and biopsy was taken for confirmation of diagnosis.

Results:

There were total 4032 patients who had presented to us with various oral aetiologies over a period of 2 years out of which oral malignancies were suspected in 30(0.74%) patients. Three types of malignant lesions found in our study were squamous cell carcinoma, verrucous carcinoma, and oral florid papillomatosis. Of these maximum percentage was covered by squamous cell carcinoma (76.70%) and the minimum by oral florid papillomatosis (3.30%). Verrucous carcinoma was 20%. The diagnosis was confirmed by biopsy. In histology it was found that out of 23 patients of SCC, 10 patients had well differentiated SCC, 5 patients had moderately differentiated SCC, 8 patients had poorly differentiated SCC.

Conclusion:

Through this study it can concluded that there are a fair number of patients with oral malignancies who initial presentation is in dermatological OPD. This highlights that we as dermatologists should be vigilant enough to diagnose them at early stages so that these patients can get lifesaving treatment at the earliest and the overall prognosis can be improved.

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