

Community Perception and Knowledge on Oral Cancer Screening Methods in Kuwait

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Abstract : The aim of the study is to understand the level of awareness in a community of a specific region of Kuwait regarding oral cancer and its screening methods so as to enhance the uptake of oral cancer screening methods. This is a cross-sectional study comprising 100 adult participants residing in the governate of Farwaniya, Kuwait. Participants of above 18 years of both genders will be selected using convenience sampling. Data collection includes the administration of a self-administered questionnaire. The questionnaire comprises three sections, each section assessing the knowledge, attitudes and practices of the participants' opinions about oral cancer and screening methods. Data will be analyzed using Humphris Oral Cancer Knowledge Scale. Inferential statistics will be done using Chi-Square or Fisher's exact test for categorical data. A level of $p < .05$ will be established as being significant. All ethical considerations, such as respect for personal confidentiality and informed consent, will be applied in this study. This study revealed that although respondents were aware of the term oral cancer, more than half of the study participants were unaware of the symptoms associated with this condition. Smoking and alcohol were identified as risk factors for oral cancer, but the majority of participants did not identify the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) as an added risk factor. This suggests a greater need for dental practitioners to include educational strategies in routine dental visits to ensure greater awareness of oral cancer.

Keywords : oral cancer, oral screening, oral public health, oral health

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