Editorial

Paradigm shift in approach to potentially malignant disorders and oral cancer

The 6th World Oral Cancer Congress of the International Academy of Oral Oncology was held between 17th and 20th of May in Bengaluru, India, and the delegates left contended and 100 times wiser after having an opportunity to listen to a galaxy of eminent clinicians, researchers and academicians.

Among many things discussed, notable stress was on potentially malignant disorders especially oral submucous fibrosis (OSMF). Regarding prevention of OSMF, a novel idea suggested to the researchers was arecoline replacement therapy just like nicotine replacement therapy. Another significant mention was of the higher potential of OSMF to turn into frank cancer compared to oral leukoplakia.

Management of OSMF was another interesting topic where do’s and don’ts were discussed. Among the don’ts was the use of intrallesional steroid injections which is practiced even though there is not a good level of evidence available in the literature.

The root cause of oral cancer is tobacco and its products, the ban of which has been recommended to the governments by many organizations without much success. Author feel a much forceful consolidated effort worldwide is absolutely necessary to curb the tobacco menace and make mankind free of oral cancer.

Dr. Vishwanath Rangdhol
Department of Oral Medicine & Radiology, Indira Gandhi Institute of Dental Sciences, Puducherry, India.
E-mail: drvishident@hotmail.com
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