LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Preventing the Oral Cavity Cancer Epidemic

Mohammad Irfanulhaq Khawaja¹, Majid Shafiq², Rabeeya Nusrat², Muhammad Rizwanulhaq Khawaja²

Abstract

Bhurgri Y (2005) have studied the time trends in the site specific oral cancer incidence in the Karachi South, a sample population of Pakistan with a representation of all ethnic and socio-economic groups of the country. Oral cancer ranks 6th world-wide. However, 58% of the cases are concentrated in South and Southeast Asia (Nair et al; 2004). In Karachi, it ranks 2nd in all malignancies among both males and females, with the highest reported incidence in the world. In the absence of alcohol use, chewing of products of betel, areca and tobacco remain the main etiological risk factors. These products include paan, chaalia, gutka and naswar. Because of the ancient history of these products, their use is socially acceptable in all sections of South Asian society.

References


¹Department of Medicine, Rawal Pindi General Hospital, Rawal Pindi, Pakistan. ²Class of 2006, The Aga Khan University – Medical College, Karachi, Pakistan. Address for Correspondence: Muhammad Rizwanulhaq Khawaja, Class of 2006, The Aga Khan University – Medical College, Stadium Road, Karachi 74800, Pakistan. Tel: +92 300 245 2324, E-mail: mrkhawaja@gmail.com

420 Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention, Vol 6, 2005