



Cases of Oral Cancer among Patients Attending Radiotherapy Unit University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital (UNTH) Enugu.

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The study assessed the cases of oral cancer among patients attending Radiotherapy unit. It specifically assessed the relationship between their various oral habits in association with oral cancer. A descriptive cross sectional survey was used to survey oral cancer patients attending radiotherapy unit university of Nigeria teaching hospital (UNTH) ItukuOzalla Enugu. Data on age, sex, types of oral cancer affecting the patients, their various oral habits, stages of the cancer and part of the mouth mostly affected were collected in September 2023 by examining there oral cavity and personal interview was conducted to collect information on their habits which was recorded in specified data sheet.Non probability convenience sampling technique was used,data collected was analyzed using tables statistical packages.A total number of 60 patients were seen,there age ranges from 18 to 51 and above. Oral cancer was more prevalent in males with a frequency of 47(78.33%) than females with 13(21.66%). The age most affected were 51 and above 31(51.66%).Stage four cancer was

observed more in the patient with 28 (46.7.0%).The most common type of oral cancer observed was squamous cell carcinoma having 22(36.70%). The tongue was mostly affected with the oral cancer having 20(33.30%) followed by the tonsils and floor of the mouth with 10(16.67%) respectively, Habits like smoking,18(30.00%) alcohol consumption, 27 (45.00%)poor nutrition,3(5.00%) use of harmful mouthwashes 2(3.33%)and tobacco chewing 10(16.66%) were observed in the patients. Correlation coefficient tests were used and $p < 0.14$ was considered significant. It was observed that the risk factor leading to oral cancer, which males have a high tendency of having these oral habits that can lead to oral cancer like smoking, alcohol, tobacco chewing are seen in these patients . Researchers recommended that Oral health education/ awareness programmes should be carried out in communities especially on the importance of oral health examination at least twice a year and proper ways of maintaining oral health. A community awareness that educates people on the identification



of the warning signs of oral cancer and the dangers

of tobacco and alcohol consumption.

KEYWORDS: Oral,Cancer,Habits,Patients