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Influence of blue light autoflourescence in the early detection of oral premalignant and malignant lesions

Dunia W Sabea
University of Baghdad, Iraq

Background: Early detection of oral malignancies plays a very important role in the treatment process, the aim of our study was to investigate the efficacy of blue light induced autoflourescence in the early detection of oral malignant and premalignant lesions of the oral cavity using blue light irradiation- fluorescence detection device (VELscope Vx)® comparing it with incandescent light.

Materials and methods: 60 patients were subjected to full extra and intraoral examination involving the use of incandescent and fluorescent light for detection of premalignant and malignant lesions, after considering the patient's background and the possible risk factors, suspected regions were biopsied.

Results: Tissue examination with incandescent light showed low prevalence of mucosal abnormalities even in patients with a suggestive background of possible malignant transformation, the overall prevalence was 0.75%. Using blue light autoflourescence together with above examination raised the prevalence up to 1.5% of which 80% where potentially premalignant dysplastic changes when biopsied.

Conclusion: Using autoflourescence techniques is highly recommended for the early detection of oral premalignant and malignant lesions and should be always integrated to the routine oral examination taking the possible risk factors and the patient's background into consideration.

dentdean2016@gmail.com