

Title: Evaluation of dental students and dentists knowledge about oral cancer symptoms in Ardabil.

Introduction: Given the incidence of oral cancer and demographic changes in Iran, planning to encourage dentists to perform and follow the protocol of oral cancer screening to reduce existing barriers is crucial. One of the underlying factors is to measure their awareness of oral cancer. Therefore, this study was conducted to investigate the familiarity of dental students and dentists in Ardabil with the symptoms of oral cancer.

Materials and Methods: In this descriptive-analytical study, 48 dental students and 66 general dentists were studied randomly. Azad and colleagues Standard Questionnaire (2015) were used to collect information and answer the questions and hypotheses. After collecting information, questionnaires related to knowledge were first corrected; After determining the level of knowledge of dentists and dental students and the relationship between the level of knowledge of dentists and their demographic characteristics (gender, work experience, duration of graduation) using two-way analysis of variance and one-way analysis of variance using Spss software version 22 Analyzed, P less than 0.05 was considered significant.

Results: The results showed that the mean and standard deviation of knowledge about the symptoms of oral cancer in senior dental students (7.52 ± 1.5) and general dentists (8 ± 1.62); So that the level of knowledge of senior dental students and general dentists in Ardabil about the symptoms of oral cancer was moderate. There was no significant difference in the knowledge of senior dental students and general dentists in Ardabil about the symptoms of oral cancer based on gender and work experience ($P > 0.05$). But the level of awareness of students and graduates of public universities was higher than foreign universities ($P < 0.05$).

Conclusion: The awareness of senior dental students and general dentists in Ardabil about the symptoms of oral cancer is moderate and there is a need to hold retraining courses for dentists and senior dental students.

Keywords: Oral cancer, Awareness, Ardabil