



ORAL HEALTH IN ADVANCED CANCER

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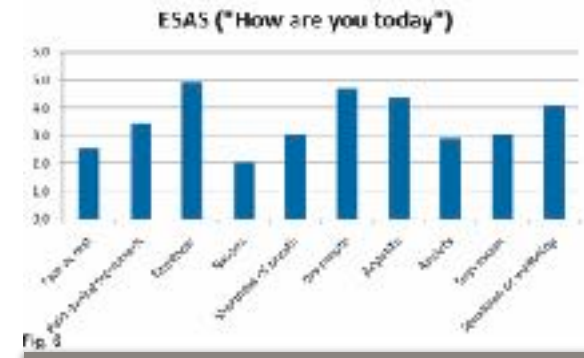


1.Introduction

Oral health problems are common in cancer patients. Physicians and nurses show less attention to the mouth than other parts of the body (Dry mouth, mouth pain and oral candidiasis may cause considerable distress, compromise nutrition and may influence proper cancer therapy. Reports of oral morbidity and oral health are rarely document (1,2,3)

Aims: To assess the prevalence of oral morbidity in patients receiving palliative therapy for cancers outside the head and neck region, and to investigate if information concerning oral problems was given. M

Results: Of the 99 patients (79%) who agreed to participate there were 47% males. The median age was 65 (age range 36-90). Median Karnofsky score was 40 (20-80), 87% had metastatic disease and 73% had a life expectancy of less than 3 months. Overall, 77% said they had received no information about oral side effects of cancer treatment. Dry mouth was reported by 78% and 70% showed increased mucosal friction. The highest mean VAS scores on ESAS were: 4,9 (tiredness); 4,7 (dry mouth) and 4,4 (poor appetite) . Clinical oral candidiasis was seen in 34%, 69% grew more than 9 colonies from mouth swabs on Sabouraud's agar



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Material & Methods: This descriptive study recruited 126 cancer patients with advanced disease outside the head and neck region from two Norwegian palliative care (PC) units. Screening by a 59-item face-to-face questionnaire, scoring by a modified ESAS (Edmonton Symptom Assessment System, scale from 0-10) using VAS (Visual Analog Scale) and a clinical oral examination were performed. Fig1

Conclusion: The cancer treatments slow or stop the growth of fast growing cells, such as cancer cells. Normal cells in the lining of the mouth also grow quickly, so anticancer treatment can stop them from growing, too.

Reference :
 1Wiseman M. Palliative care dentistry: focusing on quality of life. Compend Contin Educ Dent. 2017;38(8):529-34 quiz 535.
 2-Wilberg P, Hjermstad MJ, Ottesen S, Herlofson BB. Oral health is an important issue in end-of-life cancer



The mucositis classification of WHO was examined by professional dentist.