Overview of the Professional Education Program on Oral Cancer
Held in Essex County -- May 22, 2013

Location/Date: Hackensack University Medical Center at Mountainside Hospital Auditorium,
1 Bay Avenue, Montclair NJ 07042
May 22, 2013 8:30 AM to Noon

Sponsorship: The program was led, organized, and sponsored by the Essex-Passaic Wellness Coalition,
hosted by the New Jersey Medical School (NJMS); its director and principal investigator is Professor
Stanley H. Weiss, MD. The EPWC and this specific program, were made possible by a grant from the New
Jersey Department of Health’s Office of Cancer Control and Prevention to UMDNJ-NJMS (NJMS has since
become part of Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences).

Speakers: Arnold Rosenheck, DMD and Mahnaz Fatahzadeh, DMD, MSD, who are faculty members
of the New Jersey Dental School

Overview: The presentations focused on the importance of conducting a thorough oral cancer
examination including a comprehensive description the clinical appearance of potentially malignant oral
lesions. The attendees were trained to identify the risk factors and high risk sites for oral cancer. The role
of the oral health clinicians in the comprehensive care of patients with oral and oropharyngeal cancer was
defined. The breakfast and refreshments provided were funded through a modest registration fee.
Several persons from the EPWC were instrumental for this successful event, including an EPWC
consultant, Mr. Robert Schermer.

Conference Attendees
Total Meeting Registrations 133
Total Meeting Attendees 122 (122/133 = 92%)
Preregistered 119 (119/133 = 89%) Attended 108 (108/119 = 91%)
Did not attend 11 (11/119 = 9%)
Walk-in registrations 14 (14/133 = 11%)

By Occupation: Conference Registrants Conference Attendees
Dentists 57 (57/133 = 43%) 50 (50/122 = 41%)
Dental Hygienists 59 (59/133 = 44%) 55 (55/122 = 45%)
Dental Assistants 16 (16/133 = 12%) 16 (16/122 = 13%)
Student 1 (1/133 = 0.1%) 1 (1/122 = 0.1%)
Total 133 122

Evaluations Submitted: 105 = 86% of the 122 attendees
Organization: 73% Excellent, 23% Good, 1% Fair, 2% Satisfactory, 1% Missing
Content: 79% Excellent, 20% Good, 1% Missing
Presentation- Dr. Rosenheck: 79% Excellent, 18% Good, 1% Satisfactory, 2% Missing
Presentation- Dr. Fatahzadeh: 79% Excellent, 19% Good, 2% Missing
Educational Value: 78% Excellent, 16% Good, 1% Satisfactory, 5% Missing
Met expectations/needs: 71% Excellent, 27% Good, 1% Satisfactory, 1% Missing
Appropriate level of training: 75% Excellent, 22% Good, 2% Satisfactory, 1% Missing
Improved knowledge of topic: 73% Excellent, 25% Good, 1% Satisfactory, 1% Missing
Objectives fulfilled: 76% Excellent, 21% Good, 2% Satisfactory, 1% Missing
AV/handouts beneficial: 70% Excellent, 27% Good, 1% Satisfactory, 2% Missing

Summary

Similar to the May 14th educational program, the attendees were overwhelmingly pleased with the program. Nearly all of the participants rated it as either excellent or good. Again, more than 75% rated it as excellent. Many indicated that they appreciated the rigorous clinical training they received. Many indicated that the program will cause them to alter their practice to screen all patients and not just the ones at high risk for oral cancer. The very high ratings as well as the outstanding comments are strong evidence of a highly successful conference. A comment from a participant which seemed to sum matters up was “This course was different than others on oral cancer. It pulled everything together and covered all levels.” Indeed, it reached all levels: dental assistant, dental hygienist, and dentists.

Did attendance at this activity enhance your dental practice?

Summary: Overwhelmingly they indicated that it did enhance their dental practice.

The verbatim comments were:

- I gained more knowledge and it served as a refresher
- More aware of what spots look like
- We will be better at referring lesions to be biopsied
- Handouts were excellent and excellent references for going forward. Visualization of various types of cancers and conditions were very valuable.
- Increase my knowledge in oral pathology
- Many said it made them more aware of oral cancer and that it was an excellent review
- Many said that they will be more thorough with their oral cancer exam
- Great review of oral cancer
- Slides were a good reminder that innocuous lesions could potentially be cancer
- Do comprehensive oral exam on every patient
- Better able to distinguish clinical lesions
- Makes you aware on how significant it is to be alert about a lesion. You always learn something new. Great lecture!

What changes will you make to your practice?

Summary: Most indicated that they will do a more comprehensive oral cancer screening as a direct result of this educational program. Many also indicated they will do more brush biopsies.

The verbatim comments were:

- Make oral cancer screening part of every procedure. 5 minutes can save a life
- Take more time during the oral cancer screening and note changes
Understanding that everyone on the dental team needs to be observant
Educate the staff as to what to look for

Comments or suggestions for future topics:

Summary: Many recommended a full day course and that it was a great review.

The verbatim comments were:

Great review of oral cancer detection and treatment
The speakers were excellent and knowledge of the topics covered
Give out handouts at the time of registration
This course was different than others on oral cancer. It pulled everything together and covered all levels
Do conduct these programs again. It was such a great benefit to everyone
The speakers were all very professional and clearly enjoy what they do. This came through in the presentation.
Well done!! Great Program.