

Factors Affecting Acquisition of Oral Cancer Data by The National Cancer Registry (NCR)

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Objectives: To identify the current practices of reporting oral cancer cases to the NCR, to determine the knowledge relating to the NCR and oral cancer burden in Malaysia among dental specialists treating oral cancer and to identify the implications of incorrect reporting and their barriers of reporting.

Methods: a cross-sectional study with sample size 80 on randomly selected specialist members of MAOMS and MAOFD. Content validation was conducted by two specialists. Distribution of the questionnaires the data collection by using online. Results were analyzed using simple logistic regression analysis and descriptive statistics.

Results: 98.8% of the respondents were aware of the existence of NCR, however majority were unaware of a specific oral cancer registry in Malaysia. 90% of those who had reported to the NCR were surgeons, especially those serving in the government sector. Primary reasons for not reporting were the expectation that other specialists would report and unaware of the reporting process. Barriers to reporting were lack of knowledge (25.6%) and information on the process involved (23.2%), lack of time/manpower (20.7%). Suggested measures to overcome the barriers included providing a proper reporting platform, enhancing awareness on reporting among the specialists and providing training/education to those who are responsible for reporting.

Conclusion: Knowledge among the specialists with regards to oral cancer burden and NCR still low but they aware of the implications of inaccurate reporting and able to propose solutions to barriers in reporting.

Keywords: National Cancer Registry; Cancer Data; Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons; Oral Medicine and Oral Pathology specialists.