

Regional meeting on Scaling up Package of Essential NCD Interventions at the Primary Health Care Level in South East Asian Region, Dhaka, Bangladesh
22-25 October 2018

Early Detection and Referral of Suspected Oral, Breast and Cervical Cancer in Primary Health Care (Modules 3.7, 3.8 and 3.9)

Assessment and Referral of Oral Cancer in Primary Health Care

As a part of the Regional meeting on Scaling up Package of Essential NCD Interventions at the Primary Health Care Level in South East Asian Region held in Dhaka, Bangladesh. An online session on Assessment and Referral of Oral Cancer in Primary Health Care was convened under segment of the Early Detection and Referral of Suspected Oral, Breast and Cervical Cancer in Primary Health Care (Modules 3.7, 3.8 and 3.9). Prof OP Kharbanda, Chief, CDER AIIMS New Delhi led the discussion by joining via CISCO WEBEX meetings software. The session was moderated by Dr Piyani Tharmaphornpilas.

The module for early detection and referral of suspected oral cancer in primary health care was prepared by the Centre for Dental Education and Research, AIIMS New Delhi in coordination with the WHO SEARO Regional Office. The operational framework developed for screening, early detection and referral of common cancers at primary and secondary health care in India was modified for regional adaptation and guidance.

The discussion in this segment was to orient the participants to the algorithm to be followed for early detection and referral of a suspected case of oral cancer right from the identification of high risk groups/ populations, listing out risk factors, outlining signs and symptoms and performing an oral visual examination, leading to the referral of the individual for appropriate diagnosis, management and treatment.

Resources on Mouth Self Examination which includes an infographic and a video, conceptualized at the CDER AIIMS New Delhi were shared.

The participants were also oriented to the updated statistics on the burden of oral cancer in SEARO and high burden countries like India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,, giving details on the alarming nature of cancer. It focusses on how essential it is for health professionals to integrate and work towards enhancing awareness, risk reduction, prevention and early detection.

The session was followed by a discussion on tobacco cessation, role of areca nut and betel quid in oral cancer carcinogenesis, social determinants of cancer control and the role of

institutions, communities and individuals in cancer prevention through integrated efforts coordinating with the efforts by the World Health Organisation.

