



04 March 2022

"Oral Potentially Malignant Disorders: Healthcare Professional Training" project

An e-learning platform to improve knowledge in the diagnosis, treatment and management of potentially malignant disorders of the oral cavity by Lorena Origo (</autori/11460/Origo-Lorena.html>)



Rui Albuquerque

"Oral Potentially Malignant Disorders: Healthcare Professional Training" is an innovative project aimed to promote the training of healthcare professionals on how to diagnose, treat and monitor oral potentially malignant disorders (OPMD).

It is an e-learning platform (<http://www.OPMDcare.com>) in which it is possible to carry out remote training to improve one's knowledge on the subject and also includes a final self-assessment module.

This project funded by the European Union (Erasmus +) aims to train dentists, maxillofacial surgeons, otolaryngologists, general practitioners and other health professionals, as explained by Dr Vignesh Murthy, a Specialty Dentist in Oral Medicine, and by Dr Rui Albuquerque (pictured), project coordinator and Consultant at Guys Hospital & Honorary Senior Lecturer at King's College London who answers some questions.

How was the project born and who participates in it?

University dentistry students receive training on potentially malignant disorders of the oral cavity, but this does not happen to other health professionals who often finish their studies without ever having dealt with the subject. Our goal was to make available an innovative e-learning tool capable of offering knowledge of these conditions to the widest audience of health professionals in Europe, to promote their diagnosis and early intercepting any cancers of the oral cavity.

The project, is coordinated by King's College in London and is co-funded by the European Union as part of the Erasmus + program. The content was reviewed by an external reviewer, Dr Ariyaratnam of the University of Manchester, an expert on the subject, who provided great advice and guidance.

There are several partner universities throughout this European Union project, including: University of Milan, Italy; CESPU University, Portugal; Santiago de Compostela University, Spain; University of Bordeaux, France; University of Zagreb, Croatia.

The complete list of project partners is available on the website <https://opmdcare.com/partners-profiles/>

What are the objectives, in detail?

The main project objective is to improve the knowledge of health professionals in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of potentially malignant disorders of the oral cavity. The project involves the development of various educational resources and dissemination tools, including an e-learning tool and an electronic book, as well as oral presentations and posters to be presented at national and international conferences to reach the widest possible audience throughout the European Union.

Why is this an important initiative?

Despite commendable advances in the prevention, detection and treatment of many solid tumour types, oral squamous cell carcinoma (OSCC) remains a significant problem worldwide. It is often first diagnosed in advanced stages of the disease (advanced regional disease and / or metastasis) significantly reducing the patient's potential for recovery and having an impact on quality of life.

It is hoped that by improving knowledge of these disorders, healthcare professionals will be enabled to detect OPMDs, monitor them appropriately and detect OSCC in early stages. This will enable a reduction in the overall healthcare burden and most importantly leading to better patient outcomes.

What role can dentists play?

For early detection of oral cancers, dentists play a vital role as they are the individuals who see and observe the oral cavity frequently, during routine dental check-ups and can help identify suspicious lesions before having any symptoms. They play a pivotal role in the identification of OPMDs and the primary source of referrals in secondary/tertiary care. Whilst knowledge of OPMDs is a primary component of the undergraduate dental curriculum, knowledge of some of the rarer OPMDs may not have been included in the curriculum, therefore dentists will benefit from these resources, they will also serve as a refresher of the knowledge and competences gained through undergraduate training.

Disclaimer:



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

This project is co-funded by the European Union's Erasmus+ programme "Oral Potentially Malignant Disorders: Healthcare Professional Training", grant number 2020-1-UK01-KA202-078917.

The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.