

Development of a European-wide E-learning tool on the topic ‘Oral Potentially Malignant Disorders for Healthcare Professionals’

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OPMDcare Healthcare Professional Training

Introduction

Despite advances in detection and treatment, oral squamous cell carcinoma (OSCC) remains a significant global health burden with poor survival rates¹. Oral potentially malignant disorders (OPMDs) are a group of conditions that place affected individuals at an increased risk of developing cancer. This group of conditions differ in nature, clinical presentation, diagnostic pathway and management. For some of the condition, the evidence is still limited.

To improve the outcomes for patients with OPMDs, it is imperative that healthcare professionals understand the core knowledge related to these conditions. A previous project² aimed at training health professionals in smoking cessation had a significant educational impact, reaching over 40,000 health professionals.

Aims

Through a European Union funded project via Erasmus+, the Oral Medicine units based at Guy's Hospital, King's College London (Coordinator, United Kingdom), CESPU University (Porto), University of Bordeaux (France), Santiago de Compostela University (Spain), University of Milan (Italy) and University of Zagreb (Croatia), aim to reach a consensus on management of OPMDs.

By reflecting on the experiences of multiple centres, we aim to produce an e-learning package for healthcare professionals covering the detection, investigation, diagnosis and management of patients presenting with OPMDs. To help build a sustainable model of best practice in the management of OPMDs, the package will build upon local, national and international knowledge and clinical experience. The online resource will be freely available and accessible in several languages.

By utilising a freely available online platform, we ensure European-wide accessibility. Consequently, we aim to provide an e-learning tool, promoting knowledge and treatment of OPMDs. This will be accessible to European Union healthcare professionals and translated into several languages.

Method

The online resource (www.OPMDcare.com) will run collaboratively between all institutions. A 5-phase development and implementation structure will be implemented to develop the e-learning package.

This methodology will be similar to a previous Erasmus+ co-funded project (www.smokingcessationtraining.com) which had significant educational reach and produced multiple articles, books and posters. Other European projects with similar methodology relating to the prevention of Oral Cancer led to more than 8000 downloads and have been adopted into the dental curriculum for a number of undergraduate dental schools.

Implementation and Development Stages

Phase 1: A consensus on the information to be included will be reached. The consensus will review investigations for OPMDs, histopathology, diagnosis, management. This will be used for the development of an eBook which will aid the further development of the e-learning platform.

Phase 2: The modules and content of the project will be circulated to the expert advisory panel for evaluation and then the information will be revised.

Phase 3: First draft of the international e-learning website. Information will be incorporated, evaluated and feedback given. The information will be incorporated, evaluated and feedback given by all partners. A draft version of the website will be presented to healthcare professionals to obtain pre-launch feedback. Based on this feedback, the modules will be revised.

Phase 4: The website content and eBook will be circulated to the advisory expert panel who will comment on the material. Development of review article based on content developed on e-learning as well as posters with OPMDs providing clear points on diagnosis and treatment.

Phase 5: A dissemination strategy will be presented, so that the number of participants, quality of poster / presentations, articles and number of visits to the website can be assessed.

Expected Outcomes and Impact

1. Development of e-learning package
2. Development of e-book summarising consensus findings
3. Production of 6 posters for national presentations
4. Educational impact – providing implementable advice regarding OPMDs
5. Economic impact, reducing healthcare costs and economic gain through improved diagnosis and treatment

PROJECT DETAILS

Partners profiles
Project meetings
Dissemination and further learning
Feedback Form
Downloadable resources

CONTENTS

- Leukoplakia
- Proliferative Verrucous Leukoplakia
- Erythroplakia
- Oral Submucous Fibrosis
- Oral Lichen Planus
- Actinic Keratosis (Actinic Cheilitis)
- Palatal Lesions in Reverse Smokers
- Oral Lupus Erythematosus
- Dyskeratosis Congenita
- Oral Lichenoid Lesions
- Oral Graft versus Host Disease

ATLAS

FEEDBACK SECTION

ASSESSMENT

Multiple choice questions, pass >70%

CERTIFICATE

Table 1: Table of contents from e-learning platform

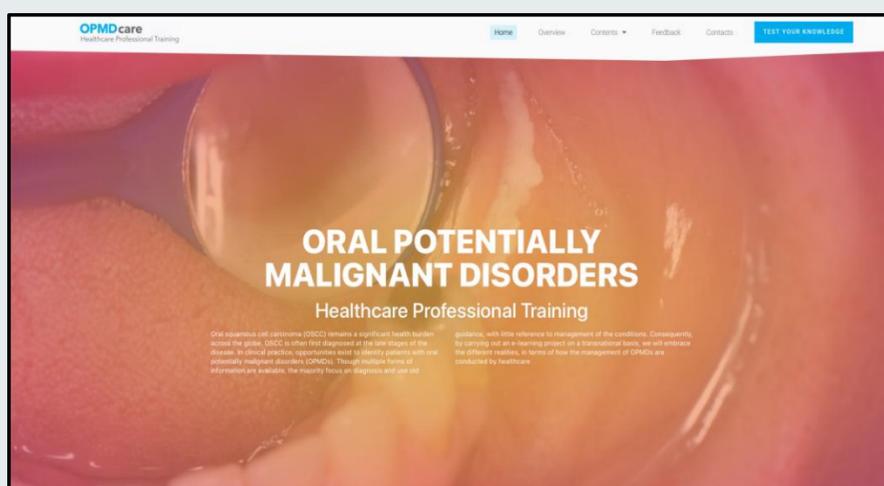


Figure 1: Main page of the e-learning platform

References

Sung, H, Ferlay, J, Siegel, RL, Laversanne, M, Soerjomataram, I, Jemal, A, Bray, F. Global cancer statistics 2020: GLOBOCAN estimates of incidence and mortality worldwide for 36 cancers in 185 countries. CA Cancer J Clin. 2021; 71: 209-249.



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