

Oral Cancer Control Program

India has one third of Oral Cancer (OC) cases in world and are usually preceded by asymptomatic clinically evident oral lesions referred as Oral Potentially Malignant Disorders (OPMDs) with a malignant transformation rate ranging from 0.13%–34%. 50% of oral cancers are not detected till advanced. The 5-year survival rate of patients with early stage OC is 82% and 27% with advanced stage. Diagnosis of oral cancer at an early stage offers the best chance for improved survival, decreased morbidity and cost of treatment.

Empowering Frontline Healthcare Providers (FHPs) with mobile health technology increases the sensitivity/specificity of the screening and way forward incorporating machine learning enables automation. A robust training module for FHPs has been developed for early detection, surveillance and management of OPMDs and Oral cancer. Long term Surveillance of OPMDs by objective assessment is a critical component in monitoring progression, which can be through clinical assessment, image analysis and cellular/molecular markers. PoC (Imaging and with the patented molecular cytology) integrated with AI has been implemented in limited resource settings by a low skilled personnel as an innovative approach to down stage oral cancer. Our Institution is the collaborating centre in developing and implementing this novel approach.