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Sociodemographic, dental utilization and oral cancer awareness in British Columbia

Approximately 4400 Canadians, including 500 British Columbians, will be diagnosed with oral cancer in 2015. Oral cancer screening is a fast and noninvasive exam that can be performed by dental professionals at regular dental visits, however many people are unaware of oral cancer nor have had routine oral cancer screening performed in the dental setting. In addition, 1 in 5 Canadians do not access regular dental care due to cost and hence may not be screened for oral cancer. This project will study what sociodemographic factors may influence access to dental care and oral cancer screening and awareness within British Columbia. We anticipate that oral cancer screening and oral cancer awareness may be associated with other lifestyle factors such as education, income, tobacco and alcohol use, and ethnicity.