

# Tobacco Control and Oral Cancer

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**Abstract**—Tobacco use is a major public health challenge in India with 275 million adults consuming different tobacco products. It has assumed the dimension of an epidemic resulting in enormous disability, disease and death. It is estimated that five million preventable deaths occur every year globally, attributable to tobacco use. Approximately 80% of oral cancer can be attributable to tobacco use.

India has played a leadership role in global tobacco control. With the growing evidence of harmful and hazardous effects of tobacco, the Government of India enacted various legislations and comprehensive tobacco control measures. Besides enacting comprehensive tobacco control legislation (COTPA, 2003), India was among the first few countries to ratify WHO the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) in 2004. The National Tobacco Control Programme is under implementation in 42 districts of 21 states in the country.

This paper presents the results from a study done to investigate the awareness of individuals regarding oral cancer and oral potentially malignant disorders, knowledge of its major risk factors and clinical signs and discusses the current understanding of the tobacco control policy of India.