

PREVALENCE OF PRECANCEROUS LESIONS OF THE ORAL MUCOSA

Kamilov Kh.P., DSc, professor

Kakhkharova D.J., DSc, associate professor

Gulyamova M.R., MSc

Tashkent State Medical University, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Abstract. This retrospective study presents the prevalence of precancerous lesions of the oral mucosa among the adult population in CIS countries over the 2013-2023 period. The average occurrence of these conditions is 10-12%, including leukoplakia (3-5%), oral lichen planus (1.5-2%), and papillomatosis (1-1.5%). Rare but high-risk conditions, such as erythroplakia and Bowen's disease, were also identified. The study highlights the importance of regular diagnosis and preventive measures for precancerous lesions, especially among high-risk groups.

Key words: precancerous lesions; oral mucosa; prevalence; erythroplakia; leukoplakia; lichen planus; Bowen's disease; papillomatosis.

In a retrospective study conducted to assess the prevalence of precancerous diseases of the oral mucosa (OM) among the adult population of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) during the period from 2013 to 2023, it was established that approximately 10–12% of the adult population, on average, presents with various forms of precancerous oral mucosal lesions. In approximately 70% of cases, oral mucosal malignancies are preceded by precancerous lesions [2].

According to the classification proposed by A. L. Mashkilleyson [1], precancerous diseases of the oral mucosa include erythroplakia, verrucous and erosive leukoplakia, erosive-ulcerative and hyperkeratotic forms of oral lichen planus, and Bowen's disease. The prevalence of individual conditions is distributed as follows:

Oral lichen planus (erosive-ulcerative and hyperkeratotic forms) occurs in approximately 1.5–2% of the adult population. The condition is most frequently diagnosed in individuals over 40 years of age and in women, which may be associated with chronic inflammatory processes and immune dysfunction.

Leukoplakia (erosive and verrucous forms) has an estimated prevalence ranging from 3% to 5%. Smoking, chronic mechanical trauma, and age-related changes are considered major risk factors contributing to the development and prevalence of these forms.

Erythroplakia is a relatively rare but high-risk condition, with an estimated prevalence of approximately 0.05–0.1%. It is characterized by a high risk of malignant transformation and occurs more frequently in men over 50 years of age, particularly in the presence of chronic irritative factors.

Papillomatosis accounts for approximately 1–1.5% of cases. Viral infections, particularly human papillomavirus (HPV) infection, are considered important contributing factors and may increase the risk of malignant transformation in the presence of additional unfavorable conditions.

Bowen's disease is reported in approximately 0.02–0.05% of the population. Individuals over 60 years of age are considered particularly susceptible to this condition, which requires regular clinical monitoring due to its significant potential for malignant transformation.

Overall, the findings of this study emphasize the importance of timely diagnosis and prevention of precancerous diseases of the oral mucosa, particularly among high-risk groups, including individuals over 40 years of age, smokers, and patients with chronic mechanical trauma or irritation of the oral mucosa.

References

1. Mashkilleyson, A. L. *Precancer of the Red Border of the Lips and Oral Mucosa*. Moscow, 1970. 272 p.
2. Gileva, O., Libik, T., Daurova, F., Mudrova, O., & Redinova, T. "Oral cancer awareness among aged patients with chronic oral mucosal diseases in Russian Federation." *BIO Web of Conferences*, 22 (2020), 01027.