

Protocol for the design of the ORMSA database and a retrospective audit of clinical oral mucosal lesions presenting to the department of Oral Medicine and Periodontology

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Background

Oral medicine comprises the diagnosis and treatment of medical diseases that impact the oral region. This study aims to establish a registry of oral medicine conditions in Cape Town, South Africa.

Objectives

To establish the Oral Medicine database of South Africa, which will be used to determine the range and frequency of diagnoses in oral specimens submitted for histopathological examination by clinicians in the Oral Medicine and Periodontology Department of the University of the Western Cape

Methods

This is a cross sectional, retrospective cross-sectional analysis of patient records who presented to the Tygerberg OHC, Mitchells Plain OHC and Groote Schuur Oral Medicine Clinic from 1 January 2010 to 1 January 2022. A RedCAP® database was created to capture data and export data for further analysis on STATA 14.

Results

A total of 2021 patients and 2085 biopsy specimens were included in the study. The average age of patients was 42.8 years with a standard deviation of 19.7 (range: 1 month-89 years). Of these; 1087/2021 (53.7%) were women and 786/2021 (38.9%) were men (male: female ratio 1:1.38). The five most observed oral lesions were fibroepithelial hyperplasia 397/ 2085 (19%), squamous cell carcinoma 285/ 2085 (13.7%) pyogenic granulomas accounted for 199/ 2085 (9.5%), mucoceles 175/ 2085 (8.4%) and benign human papilloma virus induced lesions 120/ 2085 (12.2%)

Conclusion

This study led to the creation of the REDCap®-based ORMSA database. We described the epidemiology of oral lesions in a setting with a relatively high volume of patients. The reported frequencies of the most prevalent diagnoses were similar to those found in studies from comparable populations, with minor variations. Further research could be conducted to determine risk factors associated with the diverse pathological diagnoses.

Advocacy message: The implication of this database is that the data collected will contribute to the epidemiology of oral medicine lesions. The expansion of the database to the rest of the country will assist in developing a more accurate picture of oral public health and will inform future training and planning to address the burden of disease.

Keywords: Prevalence, oral medicine, database, oral pathology