

**Abstract:**

Throughout the economically developing nations, the morbidity and mortality arising from cancer of the mouth and jaws has remained high despite the current advances in surgical and medical practice. Late presentation worsens the survival rates and makes complete rehabilitation of the sufferers difficult. Factors that lead to the late presentation, delayed diagnosis and often inadequate management are diverse. In addition to highlighting the incidences of oral cancer worldwide, this article presents an overview of the current developments in the identification and management of this dreadful disease. Most importantly, it is intended to sensitise clinicians, health planners and managers to evolve viable strategies that may alleviate the grave suffering endured by those afflicted in our populations.