

**A-07 : SMOKING, SMOKELESS TOBACCO USE AND ALCOHOL  
CONSUMPTION IN 62 HISTOLOGICALLY DIAGNOSED ORAL  
LEUKOPLAKIA PATIENTS**

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The risk of cancer developing in oral precancer among those who smoke, use smokeless tobacco (betel chewing) and consume alcohol combine more in a multiplicative than in an additive fashion. This study deals with the clinical and histopathological data of 62 recent consecutive oral leukoplakias histologically diagnosed in the Dept. of Oral Pathology. Details of habits of these 62 patients were obtained after personal interview.\* There were 49 (79%) males and 13 (21%) females. The age range was 22-70 years. Leukoplakia commonly occurred between 31-59 years (n = 47,75.8%).

Homogeneous leukoplakia was found in 69.4%, nodular leukoplakia in 25.8% and proliferative verrucous leukoplakia in 4.8%. The commonest site of presentation was the buccal mucous membrane, followed by the combined site of buccal mucosa and commissural area. Of the biopsies 72.6% showed no epithelial dysplasia. Mild to moderate epithelial dysplasia was seen in 21% and severe epithelial dysplasia in 6.5%. Of the homogeneous leukoplakias 13.3%, and of nodular leukoplakias 25.8% showed varying grades of epithelial dysplasia. There were 52 smokers (83.9%), 53 (85.5%) smokeless tobacco users (betel chewers), and 50 (80.6%) who consumed alcohol. All three habits were practiced by 41 patients (40 males and 1 female). Almost all patients above 60 years of age showed dysplastic changes and 74% of epithelial dysplasia was found in those indulging in all three habits. Epithelial dysplasia was minimal in the single habit group. There is a statistically significant association between smoking and dysplasia ( $p = 0.0001$ ) and smokeless tobacco use and dysplasia ( $p = 0.0001$ ). An association was also found between age and dysplasia ( $p = 0.037$ ). Epithelial dysplasia was always a feature in elderly, male smokers followed by those engaged with the smokeless tobacco habit. These 62 patients are being followed up for possible malignant transformation.