



Title	Screening for Oral Cancer
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Aim

To determine the best evidence for the use of toluidine blue (TB) in Veterans Health Administration (VHA) dental clinic screening programs for oral squamous cell carcinoma (OSCC).

Conclusions and results

We found 7 systematic reviews of oral cancer screening, including 1 duplicate publication. Only 2 reviews mentioned TB as a diagnostic tool, and neither review included evidence that met the United States Preventive Services Task Force's (USPSTF) standards for screening programs. Generally, research on diagnostic aids used in oral cancer management is restricted to lower level technical efficacy and diagnostic accuracy studies. Hence, their impact on management decisions and/or patient outcomes remains to be defined.

Recommendations

At this time, TB should be considered an aid to oral cancer diagnosis and not an appropriate tool for use in population screening programs for oral cancer.

Methods

A literature search was conducted for systematic reviews, evidence based guidelines, and economic analyses published in English between 1990 and 2009 in the following databases: Cochrane Library, MEDLINE, and INAHTA. Articles with adult human subjects were included, as were subsequently published, review-eligible, clinical trials.

Further research/reviews required

More stringent research is needed to determine the advantages and drawbacks of oral cancer screening, as is further research regarding effective treatments for oral cancer.