



American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics
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The Roosevelt Hotel - New Orleans, LA

Program Speaker – Simon Killough

Title

Quality of Life Issues in Head and Neck Cancer

Abstract

Head and neck cancer constitutes approximately 3% of all cancers worldwide, with in excess of 660,000 new cases annually worldwide and 325,000 deaths. Management of head and neck cancer depends on site, extent, histology, previous medical history and patient choice. A multidisciplinary approach is required to optimize patient wellbeing, owing to the significant functional and psychosocial implications that can impact on quality of life (QOL). QOL is difficult to define as it is a perceived subjective outcome. It is also a broad multi-dimensional concept which permeates many aspects of an individual's life to include well-being, life satisfaction and even spiritual beliefs. Members of the dental team have a key role in patient care; therefore the dental team should be knowledgeable in the short-term and longer-term implications of this disease and how these impact on QOL.

Patients with head and neck cancer not only live with the potential of their illness being life threatening, but with the consequences of the disease or treatment itself, such as disfigurement, dental issues, fatigue, osteoradionecrosis, sexuality, shoulder dysfunction, trismus, xerostomia, impaired speech and swallowing, as well as problems concerning finances, socializing and family worries. These all affect patients' QOL and impacts not only on them but also their families.

This presentation offers the attendees an overview of how head and neck cancer and the various treatments, such as surgery, radiotherapy, chemotherapy and immunotherapy impact upon QOL, both in the short term and longer term.

Biography

Simon Killough is a Consultant in Restorative Dentistry in the Belfast Trust and Honorary Lecturer at Queen's University Belfast (QUB). After graduating in Dentistry in 1994 he spent 7 years in general dental practice. He was appointed a Clinical Lecturer in QUB in and commenced a PhD in the field of dental pulp biology. He was awarded the European Society of Endodontology Research Prize and spent time in the University of Lyon.

Simon's main interest is in head and neck oncology and he has developed this service in Northern Ireland.

He also leads the multidisciplinary implant clinic, managing patients with hypodontia and dental trauma. His research interests include quality of life issues in head and neck oncology patients. He also works part-time in a specialist multidisciplinary dental practice.

He is married to Aideen, a hospital doctor and has 4 children. He enjoys running and gravel cycling.