



U.S. Preventive Services Task Force

Literature Surveillance Report

Title: Screening for Oral Cancer

Literature Surveillance Date: November 2020

Recommendation Summary: In 2013, the Task Force concluded that the current evidence was insufficient to assess the balance of benefits and harms of screening for oral cancer in asymptomatic adults (**Grade: I statement**).

Summary of New Evidence: Literature scans were conducted in the MEDLINE databases and the Cochrane library. Results were limited to English language, core clinical and specialty journals, 2011 to present.

Systematic Reviews

A 2013 Cochrane review on the effectiveness of current screening methods in decreasing oral cancer mortality (search through July 2013) included only one trial from India with a high risk of bias and limited applicability to US practice that was addressed in the previous USPSTF review.¹

Primary Studies

No new studies address the effects of screening on morbidity or mortality outcomes. Thirteen new studies evaluate the test performance characteristics of HPV tests, toluidine blue, swabs using droplet digital PCR, fluorescent visualization, DNA image cytometry, cytology smears, methylene blue, and high-frequency soft tissue ultrasound.²⁻¹⁴

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