# Oral Cancer Control Program

Globally, the burden of Oral Cancer (OC) is surging in India and has one third of the cases. OC is usually preceded by asymptomatic clinically evident oral lesions referred as Oral Potentially Malignant Disorders (OPMDs) with a malignant transformation rate ranging from 0.13%–34%. 50% of oral cancers are not detected till advanced. The 5-year survival rate of patients with early stage OC is 82% and 27% with advanced stage. Diagnosis of oral cancer at an early stage offers the best chance for improved survival, decreased morbidity and cost of treatment.

Empowering Frontline Healthcare Providers (FHPs) with mobile health technology increases the sensitivity/specificity of the screening and way forward incorporating machine learning enables automation. Five days hands-on training module for FHPs has been developed for early detection of OC extensive coverage of topics. This niche event has trained 13 batches with 83 participants from various institutions across the country.

Long term Surveillance of OPMDs by objective assessment is a critical component in monitoring progression, which can be through clinical assessment, image analysis, cellular/molecular markers and developed the prognostic nomogram. Point-of-care technology integrated with AI has been implemented in limited resource settings by a low skilled personnel as an innovative approach to down stage oral cancer. Our Institution is the collaborating centre in developing and implementing this novel approach. The institution has been awarded three competent funded projects from Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and National Institutes of Health (NIH) for technology assisted screening of OC.