

ESIC Dental College & Hospital, Kalaburagi

Report on “World Cancer Day 2026”

ESIC Dental College and Hospital, Kalaburagi observed **World Cancer Day** on **4th February 2026** with the objective of creating cancer awareness, with special emphasis on oral cancer prevention, early detection, and timely management. The program was conducted within the hospital premises and primarily targeted patients attending the outpatient department. As part of the program, **cancer awareness sessions** were provided to patients attending the dental OPD throughout the day. Patients were educated about the risk factors for oral cancer, particularly the role of tobacco and alcohol use, early warning signs of oral cancer, and the importance of regular oral examinations. Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials such as posters and pamphlets were used to reinforce key messages in a simple and patient-friendly manner. Approximately **221 patients** were covered under the awareness activity.

A **free oral cancer screening program** was conducted by the Department of Oral Medicine and Radiology. All willing patients attending the OPD were screened for oral potentially malignant disorders and suspicious lesions. Around **56 patients** underwent oral screening as part of this initiative. Special attention was given to individuals with a history of tobacco and alcohol consumption. Patients identified with tobacco and alcohol habits were referred to the **Tobacco Cessation Centre (TCC)**, where individualized counselling was provided regarding habit cessation, health risks, and available support services. A total of **17 patients** received counselling at the TCC, and motivation to quit tobacco was emphasized using brief intervention techniques.

Patients presenting with **clinically suspicious lesions suggestive of oral cancer or potentially malignant disorders** were referred for further evaluation. A total of **3 patients** with positive clinical findings were advised biopsy. The Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery performed the biopsy procedures, and the specimens were sent to the Department of Oral Pathology for histopathological examination to confirm the diagnosis and plan further management. The program witnessed active participation from **interns, junior residents, and faculty members of the Department of Public Health Dentistry**, who were involved in patient education, coordination, and counselling activities.

In conclusion, the observance of **World Cancer Day 2026** at **ESIC Dental College and Hospital, Kalaburagi** was a successful and impactful initiative that emphasized cancer awareness, early detection, and multidisciplinary care. The program highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts in reducing the burden of oral cancer and reinforced the institution's commitment to public health promotion and cancer prevention.

The photographs are attached in next pages



