

MASS AWARENESS OF CANCER SIGNS NEEDED

The articles published over the last year in *Vital* on mouth cancer are very informative for DCPs and patients.^{1,2} Twice yearly dental check ups and cutting out risk factors can prevent oral cancer or enable early detection. We must train all of our dental hygienists and therapists to examine patients for signs of oral cancer. Education providers should arrange workshops to train dental professionals and mass awareness of the signs and symptoms of oral cancer could be assisted with televised debates and more published articles in the media.

I have been reading the *BDJ* and *Vital* for a long time and think that *Vital* is excellent reading for dental professionals.

Dr J. A. Qazi
Associate Professor/Head of Department
of Oral Medicine/Pathology
Peshawar, Pakistan

1. Douglas L. Making oral cancer screening a routine part of your patient care, Part 1. *Vital* winter 2011; 44-47. Available at: <http://www.nature.com/vital/journal/v9/n1/full/vital1450.html> (free log-in required).
2. Douglas L. Making oral cancer screening a routine part of your patient care, Part 2. *Vital* spring 2012; 31-34. <http://www.nature.com/vital/journal/v9/n2/full/vital1486.html> (free log-in required).

Editor's note: Linda Douglas, the British dental hygienist based in Canada who wrote the Vital articles on oral cancer screening, has just accepted an invitation to speak on one of her favourite subjects, saliva, at a dental convention in Las Vegas in April 2013. It is Linda's first big public speaking experience – we wish her the best of luck and look forward to hearing how it goes!



Vital reader panel

New members of *Vital's* reader panel. If you would like to join the panel, just email the Editor, **Kate Maynard**, on vitaleditorial@nature.com.

Steph Horner

Age: 41

Town: Colchester

Place of work: Creffield
Lodge Dental Practice

Job title: Dental Nurse/Decon Lead

In dentistry: 23 years

Loves: Marmite

Hates: spiders



Claire Deegan

Age: 37

Town: Worthing

Place of work: Multi site

Job title: Practice Manager (Specialist Orthodontist/General) and part-time Dental Nurse Tutor

In dentistry: 20 years

Loves: developing DCPs to know their full potential and seeing the results; making a difference to people's perception of dentistry and promoting career paths

Hates: negativity and snakes



Melanie Joyce

Age: 26

Town: Leeds

Place of work: Bradford
DCT/Newsmile Dental Care

Job title: Dental Therapist

In dentistry: eight years

Loves: cooking and eating!

Hates: when people don't know what a dental therapist is!



Snail mail: Vital Editorial, NPG, 4-6
Crinan Street, London N1 9XW

Next issue's star letter writer will win an Oral-B
Triumph 5000 with SmartGuide.

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