

a.57941

WHO/ORH.EMV.93.1

WORLD ORAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE

**SURVEY OF OROFACIAL MUTILATIONS
AND NOMA**

Explanatory Leaflet



**The Oral Health Programme
World Health Organization**

SURVEY OF OROFACIAL MUTILATIONS AND NOMA

Alerted by several reports from various African countries about a suspected increase in the number of cases of noma, the Oral Health unit of WHO decided to launch an international survey of orofacial mutilations and noma (cancrum oris), from which it is hoped to evaluate the number of cases referred to out-patient and care centres.

One of the main objectives of this project is to identify the most severe cases which cannot be treated locally and need to be referred to a health service providing more complex treatment, in an industrialized country if necessary. Non-governmental organizations and two teams of specialized surgeons - from Geneva Hospital and the French Military Medical Corps - have either offered or accepted to participate in this international operation, under the auspices of the World Health Organization. This network has also undertaken to identify the necessary financial support for individual cases.

Another important use of the data collected will be the analysis of treatment needs of orofacial mutilations in each participating country. Supplemented by information on local or national resources, it will help the national health authorities to draw up a programme to train personnel and develop appropriate care services. This training programme will also be conducted with the support of the international network mentioned above.

To gather essential information, it will be necessary to consult patient files in the care centres serving a target region or country. For this purpose, a simple form has been designed by the Oral Health unit of WHO, in collaboration with Aide Odontologique Internationale (AOI) and Dr Denys Montandon of the Association d'Entraide des Mutilés du Visage (AEMV) of Switzerland.

This form should be completed from patients' clinical records, respecting their absolute anonymity. When completed, the forms will be collected by the person in charge of the survey and either processed locally or sent to WHO for analysis. If processed locally, it is essential that the results are sent to WHO for inclusion of data on these conditions in the WHO Global Oral Data Bank.

A pilot study is under way in Niger, within the framework of a project led by the AOI. The pilot study will allow us to test the methodology and to finalize the system of data collection. It is hoped that surveys will commence simultaneously in several countries in West Africa in 1993.

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Guidelines

The survey covers cases referred to care centres, dispensaries and regional and national hospitals and is therefore retrospective. The information is extracted from patients' records and entered on the WHO recording form.

A **sample** of care centres should be randomly selected. If, for practical reasons, random sampling cannot be applied, a list of care centres to be surveyed should be drawn up based on knowledge of the local situation.

The criteria related to the selection of the centres are:

- geographical distribution which includes both urban and rural areas, and factors such as ethnic differences, climatic features, dietary habits and socio-economic levels;
- availability of usable, clinical records and authorization to consult them.
- availability of personnel and necessary logistic resources.

How to complete the form

The form consists of boxes numbered (1) to (34). The examiner is also required to enter other information on the dotted lines.

Country: Enter the name of the country.

Boxes (1) to (3): WHO assigns a code number to each of its member states for internal administrative purposes. This section should be left blank as it will be completed by WHO at the data processing stage .

Boxes (4) to (7): Allocate a number to each patient form and write this number on the corresponding record at the care centre. This is essential if the patient is not treated locally and is taken in hand by the network. **Never** assign the same number to more than one person.

Care centre: Enter the name of the care centre.

Location: Enter the name of the location where the care centre is situated .

Boxes (8) & (9): Assign a number to each location covered by the survey and provide a list of these numbers to WHO.

Boxes (10),(11), (12),(13),(14) Place a cross in the square corresponding to the type of care centre.

- Boxes (15) & (16) Write the age, in years, of the patient in boxes (15) and (16). Do not write the year of birth.
- Box (17) Enter 1 for male or 2 for female.
- Boxes (18) & (19), (20) & (21), (22) & (23) Enter the date on which the patient's condition was recorded: the day in boxes (18-19), the month in boxes (20-21) and the year in boxes (22-23).
- Boxes (24) to (29) Put a cross in the box corresponding to the condition recorded.
- Box (30) Enter a cross if area affected cannot be determined.
- Boxes (31) to (34) If noma is present, indicate the area affected by means of the illustrations at the bottom of the page and put a cross in the corresponding box.

If you wish to have the data processed by WHO, please send the forms to the following address, after checking that they have been completed correctly.

Mrs M.-H. Leclercq
~~Oral Health Unit~~ *Division of Noncommunicable Diseases.*
World Health Organization
20 avenue Appia
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

