



FDI POLICY STATEMENT
TOLUIDINE BLUE MOUTHWASH
Adopted by the FDI General Assembly: October 1998 - Barcelona

1% Toluidine Blue Mouthwash is being promoted as an adjunct to oral cancer diagnosis - for use on high risk individuals and groups only and explicitly not as a tool for population screening.

The sensitivity and specificity of Toluidine Blue as a test for early detection of “oral cancer” is adequate. However, the sensitivity and specificity are given for both overtly malignant lesions and potentially malignant lesions (particularly severe epithelial dysplasia) under the umbrella “oral cancer”. Although 100% of cancers may stain, most studies show that only 50% or less of dysplasias are detected by this technique.

The use of Toluidine Blue in expert and experienced hands is recommended:

- in the monitoring of suspicious lesions over time
- in screening for oral mucosal malignancy and potentially malignant lesions in high risk individuals and population groups
- in the follow-up of patients already treated for upper aero digestive tract cancer
- in helping to determine an optimal site for biopsy when a suspicious lesion or condition is present; and
- intraoperatively during surgery of upper aero digestive tract malignancy.

For clinicians in primary care settings, specific training is required for correct application of the test and correct interpretation of the results.

Toluidine Blue shall not be considered a replacement for a detailed visual and digital examination, but as an extra tool for the identification of patients who should be referred to specialists or centres experienced in the diagnosis and treatment of oral cancer and potentially malignant lesions or conditions.