

Launching a handy oral cancer screening tool: OralScan

A startup company M/s Sascan Meditech Pvt Ltd, which incubated at TiMED, the Technology Business Incubator of Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology, Thiruvananthapuram is launching OralScan, a hand held imaging device for screening, detection and biopsy guidance of oral cancer. Oral Scan is a Make- in- India initiative with seed funding from the scheme National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI) of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Govt of India. Oral scan was designed and developed entirely in India and supported by Biotechnology ignition grant of Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), INVENT (DST) and Kerala Start Up Mission. The company recently received investment from Unicorn India Ventures.

OralScan will be officially launched on 28th October 2020 by Smt. K.K Shailaja, Hon'ble Minister for Health and Social Welfare, Govt of Kerala. An online event kick starting the product sales and distribution network will also be held in the presence of dignitaries, oncologists and channel partners identified across the country. Dr Asha Kishore, Director, SCTIMST will perform the first sale to Mr. Ketan Parmar, Innovative India, Surat,

According to Dr Subhash Narayanan, CEO of Sascan, oral cancer is a growing concern in India with more than 80,000 fresh cases reported each year. The disease has a high mortality rate because of the delay in detection. Current practice relies on oral examinations using a torch light to detect early stage cancers of the oral cavity. Various studies have demonstrated that this screening technique is not very reliable and often oral potentially malignant lesions (OPMLs) go undetected in the early stages. Even experienced clinicians find it difficult to locate the optimal site for a biopsy based on conventional oral examination. This leads to multiple biopsies, increased expenditure and false negative reports which can delay diagnosis and outcome. It is in this context that the OralScan, a handheld imaging device developed by Sascan for screening, detection of OPMLs and biopsy guidance becomes relevant. A proprietary software assists the surgeon in taking biopsy from the most appropriate site which is likely to confirm the diagnosis of malignancy. This will avoid multiple biopsies and false negative reports. The device will be marketed at a price of Rs 5.9 Lakhs. This will be a one-time investment for hospitals and laboratories without any additional costs of consumables.

Sascan, a startup has already obtained ISO 13485 certification and CE certification. An Indian patent has been granted for the technology and US patent has been filed. OralScan has also undergone multicentric trials covering 6 hospitals across the country. “This device is expected to have good demand in General Dentistry, Oral Medicine, Oral/Maxillofacial Pathology and surgery”. Said Shri Balram, Engineer, Sree Chitra and CEO of the incubator of Sree Chitra.



OralScan device connected to a 10-inch Tablet



Sascan team (L to R): Ms Kavita Vijayan, Dr Ranimol Prasanna, Ms Phebe George, Dr Subhash Narayanan (Founder & CEO), Mr Rinoy Suvarnadas, and Mr Vinodkumar Damodaran.