

MEDIA RELEASE

MR005: 27 June 2005 [for immediate release]

Wakefield born Mouth Cancer Foundation becomes registered Charity

**The Mouth Cancer Foundation, established in June 2004,
finally received its registered charity no 1109298 in May
2005 with its main objective being:**

**"THE RELIEF OF SICKNESS AND THE PROMOTION AND
PROTECTION OF GOOD HEALTH AMONG THOSE SUFFERING
OR AT RISK OF MOUTH, THROAT AND OTHER HEAD & NECK
CANCER BY THE COLLATION AND DISSEMINATION OF
RELEVANT INFORMATION AMONG THE PUBLIC GENERALLY
AND BY THE PROVISION OF SUPPORT TO PATIENTS, CARERS
AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS."**

**Dr Vinod K Joshi, Consultant in Restorative Dentistry at Pinderfields
Hospital, Wakefield, and Founder of the Mouth Cancer Foundation, said:**

**"In the course of my work, I realised that my patients and their dentists
needed easier access to information, as well as more-comprehensive**

information, about oral care and advice before, during and after treatment for head-and-neck cancers; also about early detection, treatment and complications of mouth cancers. It also became apparent that these patients needed a support group and there needed to be greater public awareness of mouth cancers. Mouth cancers have a higher proportion of deaths per number of cases than breast cancer, cervical cancer or skin melanoma.“

The Mouth Cancer Foundation already has a growing Online Support Group with over 700 message board members, including patients, carers and health professionals, all discussing various topics from eating habits to treatment and surgery. The online community is also a place to create friendships as well as share ideas on fundraising awareness campaigns. Now this online community is being asked to attend a face-to-face Fundraising Meeting in July where their ideas will become a reality.

Dr Joshi's message was, “If you have a mouth ulcer, which lasts for more than 3 weeks, you should see a dentist or doctor immediately. Visit the Mouth Cancer Foundation web site at www.mouthcancerfoundation.org for more information and our online support group. We are appealing to both individuals and businesses for financial support through donations and sponsored events in order to raise mouth cancer awareness and funding for the charity.”

END

NOTES FOR EDITORS

To contact Dr Vinod K Joshi:

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Mouth cancers have a higher proportion of deaths per number of cases than breast cancer, cervical cancer or skin melanoma. In the UK, there has been a 19% increase in cases from 3,673 in 1995 to 4,400 in 2001 and 13,000 people in the UK are currently living in the shadow of this debilitating disease. An increasing number of young people are being affected and 25% of the cases have no associated significant risk factors. The mortality rate from mouth cancer is just over 50% due to late detection. Despite treatment, there were 1,592 deaths in 2003 – that's approximately one death every 5 hours. Treatment often leaves patients with problems of eating, talking and facial disfigurement. The chances of survival are much improved if the cancer is detected early and rapidly treated.

For more information about mouth cancers visit:

Mouth Cancer Foundation www.mouthcancerfoundation.org