

## **15. Red flags**

**There are certain clinical signs that may indicate a risk for neoplasia and further swift investigations are required**

**Need to know –red flags**

### **Red Flags - Orofacial Pain Symptoms that may indicate serious or malignant disease <sup>52</sup>**

- Spontaneously occurring focal neuropathy with pain and or altered sensation confirmed by physical examination may indicate tumor invasion of nerve
- Pain at the angle of the mandible, brought on by exertion, relieved by rest may indicate cardiac ischemia
- patient over 50 years with known history of carcinoma localized progressive headache; superficial temporal artery swelling, tenderness, and lack of pulse
- Jaw claudication, visual symptoms, palpably tender superficial temporal arteries – Temporal arteries
- Systemic symptoms of fever, weight loss, anorexia, malaise, myalgia, chills, sweating - unlikely to be associated with OFP
- New onset headache in adult life of increasing severity with: nausea, and vomiting without evidence of migraine or systemic illness; nocturnal occurrence; precipitation or exacerbation through changes in posture; confusion, seizures, or weakness; any abnormal neurologic sign – suggests a mass effect in cranial cavity (through intracranial tumour).
- Earache, trismus, altered sensation in the mandibular branch distribution – suggests infratemporal fossa or acoustic nerve impingement eg by tumour.
- Trigeminal neuralgia in a person less than 50 years of age may be suggestive of multiple sclerosis