

### **Question 5 – Week of December 7**

Which of the following is a predisposing factor associated with squamous cell carcinoma of the esophagus?

- A. Betel nut chewing
- B. Tylosis
- C. Both
- D. Neither

**Answer: C**

Tylosis is an autosomal dominant transmitted disease that is associated with hyperkeratosis of the palms of the hands and the soles of the feet. Betel nut chewing is common in certain regions of Asia. Its mechanism of action may be due to release of copper with resulting induction of collagen synthesis by fibroblasts.

#### **References:**

1. Blot NJ. Esophageal cancer trends and risk factors. *Semin Oncol* 1994;21:403.
2. Trivedi C, Baldwin D, Warnakulasuriya S, et al. Copper content in Areca catechu (betel nut) products and oral submucous fibrosis. *Lancet* 1997; 349:1447.