

## Research paper 1

## Clinicopathological features of oral squamous cell carcinoma

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**Introduction:** Squamous cell carcinoma is the most frequent oral cancer, accounting for 90% of malignant lesions occurring in the oral cavity. The aetiology of oral cancers is multifactorial. Genetic, environmental, social and behavioural factors may all be implicated. However, alcohol and tobacco are two of the most important risk factors.

**Objectives:** Our objectives were to assess the incidence of oral squamous cell carcinoma (OSCC) in a cohort and to describe its clinicopathological features

**Methodology:** All oral cancers diagnosed from January 2021 to March 2022 were included. Demographic data and site of the tumour within the oral cavity were documented from the laboratory records. Haematoxylin and eosin-stained slides were reviewed for the differentiation of the tumour.

**Results:** There were 98 cases of OSCC. The mean age of occurrence was 58 years (range 31 to 83 years). Most of the affected patients were males (88.7%, n=87). The common sites affected were the tongue (25.5%, n=25), buccal region (15.3%, n=15) and the alveolar regions (10.2%, n=10). The least common sites were arytenoid, mandible and supraglottic regions. Most cancers were moderately differentiated (65.3%, n=64). Poorly differentiated OSCC was diagnosed in 10.2% (n=10) patients. 12.2% (n=12) presented with recurrences and 9.2% (n=9) were given chemotherapy before the definitive surgery.

**Discussion and conclusion:** The present data reflect the epidemiological characteristics of OSCC and have shown some differences in clinicopathological features. Age and gender had similar patterns to previous studies. However, in comparison to previous studies, there were some differences in this cohort with respect to the sites affected within oral cavity and degree of differentiation. This could be due to the relatively small sample size.

**Keywords:** oral squamous cell carcinoma, incidence

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