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Current concepts and future of salivary markers for diagnosing oral squamous cell carcinoma: a review and analysis of relevant published studies

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Background: Oral squamous cell carcinoma (OSCC) has a remarkably high incidence worldwide, and a fairly serious prognosis, encouraging further research into advanced technologies for noninvasive methods of making early diagnoses, ideally in primary care settings.

Objective: Our purpose was to examine the validity of using salivary markers changes in OSCC, patients by advanced nanotechnology and molecular diagnostics for diagnosing OSCC by identifying and evaluating relevant published reports.

Methods: MEDLINE, EMBASE, and CINAHL were searched to identify clinical trials and other information published between 1990 and 10 June 2014; the searches of MEDLINE and EMBASE were updated to November 2014. Studies of noninvasive methods of diagnosing OSCC (saliva-based diagnosis and others were included). Data were abstracted and evaluated in duplicate for possible relevance on two occasions at an interval of 2 months before being included or excluded. Studies met the inclusion criteria and have been assessed by modified version of the Quality Assessment of Diagnostic Accuracy Studies instrument.

Findings: 42 studies of saliva based oral diagnosis met the inclusion criteria. Salivary diagnostics is a dynamic and emerging field utilizing nanotechnology and molecular diagnostics that can be helpful in diagnosis of OSCC.

Conclusions: It is clear that screening for and early detection of cancer and pre-cancerous lesions have the potential to reduce the morbidity and mortality of this disease. Advances in nanotechnology for saliva-based oral diagnosis are a promising pathway for the future development of more effective noninvasive methods for diagnosing OSCC that are easy to perform clinically in primary care settings.

Key words: Oral cancer, noninvasive methods, saliva based diagnostics

Biography

Graduated from University of London after a residency program at UCL Hospitals and Eastman Dental Institute, London, UK, with Master Degree and Fellowship of Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland FFDRCSI in 2005. He is a fellow of International Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Senior Fellow of Head and Neck Optical Diagnostic Society. University College London, London. UK. From Dec. 2006 to July 2008 he was Assistant Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery in King Khalid University (KKU) and the head of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Department and Biomedical Dental Sciences Department and Director of Dental Hospital at KKU. In July 2008 Dr. Omar moved to Taibah University and he is still holding a position of Assistant Professor and member of Department Committee.

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