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Epidemiology of oral squamous cell carcinoma: A tertiary care centre study

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Introduction: Oral squamous cell carcinoma (OSCC) is the most common form of carcinoma of oral cavity. OSCC ranks 12th most common cancer in the world.

Objective: The aim of this study was to assess the recent trends of oral squamous cell carcinoma (OSCC).

Material and Method: A retrospective study of 611 OSCC patients from January 2010 to December 2013 was carried out in Department of Surgical Oncology, King George's Medical University, Lucknow, India. Details of patients' sex, age, tobacco habit and cancer site were analyzed. Patients of lip cancer were excluded from study because of different behavior of lip carcinoma from other oral cavity sites.

Result: There were 464 (75.9%) cases of male and 147 (24%) cases of female with mean age of 48 years. Male to female ratio was 3:1. Carcinoma was developed in 4th (25.2%) and 3th (23%) decades of life in male and 5th (26.1%) and 6th (24.1%) decades in female. The Buccal mucosa and gingivo-buccal sulcus was most affected site both in male (49.7%) and female (39.5%) followed by alveolus 25.4% and 31.5% respectively. Retromolar trigone was least affected site in male (0.6%) and female (0.6%). Smokeless form of tobacco was major mode of tobacco consumption followed by both smoking and smokeless.

Conclusion: Globally only small number of oral cancer cases are reported in non-tobacco users. Genetic influence may contribute to development of oral carcinoma. Tobacco and alcohol are major risk factor for development of oral carcinoma. Tobacco and alcohol consumption is entirely lifestyle activity, which can be avoided. There is urgent need to check tobacco use and steps should be taken to stop further tobacco abuse.