

Sociodemographic characteristics, clinicopathological parameters and survival among Malaysians with oral squamous cell carcinoma (OSCC).

Article type: Meeting Abstract.

Content:

Introduction: Western researchers showed that oral squamous cell carcinoma (OSCC) patients exhibit lower survival rate and poorer prognosis compared to other type of cancer where several clinicopathological parameters have been implicated in the survival of patients. This study aims to assess the association between sociodemographic and clinicopathological parameters with survival of OSCC patients.

Method: Data were collected from 253 histologically diagnosed OSCC patients attending selected clinics nationwide. Survival was analyzed for relation with habits, site, disease stage and nodal involvement.

Results: Mean age was 58.9 ± 12.6 years with 8.3% aged less than 40. Majority is females (61.1%) and of Indian ethnic (48.0%). Most common habit was quid chewing (55.8%), followed by smoking (29.7%) and most came at stage IV (44.3%). Tongue was the most common site (38.9%), followed by buccal mucosa (35.0%). Factors associated with survival are smoking ($p = 0.016$), stage at presentation ($p < 0.001$) and nodal involvement ($p < 0.001$).

Discussion: Majority of OSCC cases occurred among Indians where the patients were quid chewers and presents with advanced cancer. Survival of patients decreased steadily over the years. At 1 year after diagnosis, 67.2% was still alive but only 13.4% survived 5 years. Among the habits studied, only smoking was found to be associated with survival where among those smoking, only 38.7% is alive compared to 61.3% deceased. No association was found between site and survival. A highly significant association was seen for both cancer stage and nodal involvement with survival. More survivors were found among those who come at early stage (76.3%) compared to late stage (32.7%). Similarly, more than two thirds (69.1%) of those who present with negative nodal involvement were found to be alive. In conclusion, smoking, disease stage and nodal status are predictors of survival for OSCC patients in Malaysia.

Acknowledgements: Grant-IRPA06-02-03-0174PR0054/05-05/, OPEX-UM 2008, 2009, 2010, Abraham, M.T., Anand, R., Tay, K.K., Mustafa, W.M.W., Yuen, K.M., Norlida, A., Rahman, Z.A.A.

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Source	Oral Oncology
ISSN	1368-8375
DOI	10.1016/j.oraloncology.2011.06.141
Volume	47
Page	S38-S38
Year	2011

Please Cite As:

Ghani WMN, Zain RB, Jalil N, Razak IA, Raja-Latifah RJ, Samsuddin AR. Sociodemographic characteristics, clinicopathological parameters and survival among Malaysians with oral squamous cell carcinoma (OSCC). Oral Oncology. 2011 Jul;47:S38-S.

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