

Peer Review

Review of: "Computationally Optimized ctDNA Surveillance for Recurrence Detection in HPV-Positive Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma"

Yuki Saito¹

1. Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery, University of Tokyo Hospital, Tokyo, Japan

This study evaluates the integration of circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA) testing in the surveillance of recurrent HPV-positive head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (HNSCC) and proposes cost-effective surveillance strategies. The optimization approach using a microsimulation model demonstrates significant cost reductions and minimized treatment delays compared to existing clinical guidelines. The contributions of this study are significant, offering valuable insights from both clinical and economic perspectives.

1.

The study primarily applies to HPV-positive HNSCC patients in the U.S. Considering international healthcare economic conditions and surveillance strategies could broaden its relevance to a wider readership.

2 .

The study stratifies patients into six subgroups based on AJCC 8th edition cancer stage and smoking history, which is a reasonable approach. However, clarifying how clinicians can apply these results in practice would be beneficial.

Providing explicit recommendations for specific patient groups (e.g., stage 1 non-smokers) and contrasting them with standard guidelines would help improve the study's impact.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.