

Review of: "Current Novel Concept of Carcinogenesis to Combat Oral Cancer"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Dear Author(s),

I believe this paper is good for readers with no background in the field of oral cancer; on the other hand, it is quite imprecise in some parts for field's experts.

In my opinion, it could firstly mention differences from Countries/races when discussing epidemiology and risk factors. For example, environmental risks factors change among them and the paper is not focused only on East population.

A table of data and pictures of carcinogenesis steps (i.e. from benign to malignant lesions) would help readers to better focus what you are discussing.

Then, several authors now agree that HPV infection should be correlated to oropharyngeal cancers only and not to other subsites.

You properly cited Ang et al. and I would suggest to take into account other references, for example:

- 1.Nauta IH, Heideman DAM, Brink A, van der Steen B, Bloemena E, Koljenović S, Baatenburg de Jong RJ, Leemans CR, Brakenhoff RH. The unveiled reality of human papillomavirus as risk factor for oral cavity squamous cell carcinoma. *Int J Cancer*. 2021 Jul 15;149(2):420-430. doi: 10.1002/ijc.33514. Epub 2021 Mar 29. PMID: 33634865; PMCID: PMC8251537.
- 2.Ragin C, Liu JC, Jones G, Shoyele O, Sowunmi B, Kennett R, Groen HJ, Gibbs D, Blackman E, Esan M, Brandwein MS, Devarajan K, Bussu F, Chernock R, Chien CY, Cohen MA, Samir EM, Mikio S, D'Souza G, Funchain P, Eng C, Gollin SM, Hong A, Jung YS, Krüger M, Lewis J Jr, Morbini P, Landolfo S, Rittà M, Straetmans J, Szarka K, Tachezy R, Worden FP, Nelson D, Gatherer S, Taioli E. Prevalence of HPV Infection in Racial-Ethnic Subgroups of Head and Neck Cancer Patients. *Carcinogenesis*. 2017 Feb;38(2):218-229. doi: 10.1093/carcin/bgw203. Epub 2016 Dec 26. PMID: 28025390; PMCID: PMC7191086.

I would also check if there are new studies on specific oral cavity biomarkers.

References in general are quite old, I recommend an update with last papers/reviews on this topic.

