

## Brazilian Oral Research

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### Abstract




[ALBUQUERQUE, Marco Antonio Portela](#); [KURUOSHI, Marcia Etsuko](#); [OLIVEIRA, Ilka Regina Souza](#) and [CAVALCANTI, Marcelo Gusmão Paraibó](#). CT assessment of the correlation between clinical examination and bone involvement in oral malignant tumors. *Braz. oral res.* [online]. 2009, vol.23, n.2, pp. 196-202. ISSN . doi: 10.1590/S1806-83242009000200017.

Oral cancers have a tendency to invade the surrounding bone structures, and this has a direct influence on the treatment management and on outcomes. The objective of this study was to correlate the clinical parameters (location, clinical presentation and TNM staging) of oral malignant tumors that can be associated with a potential of bone invasion and determine the accuracy of clinical examination to predict bone involvement, using computed tomography (CT). Twenty five patients, with oral malignant tumors were submitted to clinical and CT examinations. CT was considered the standard parameter to evaluate the presence of bone involvement. Clinical assessment of location, presentation form and TNM staging of the tumors were then compared to the CT findings in predicting bone involvement. Bone involvement was observed in 68% of the cases. It was predicted that tumors located in the retromolar trigone and hard palate, with a clinical aspect of infiltrative ulcer or nodule and classified in stage IV had a high potential to cause bone involvement. The clinical examination assessment of these tumors showed to be a valuable tool to predict bone invasion, with high sensitivity (82%) and specificity (87.5%), based on the results found in the CT images. No statistical significance was found between the CT and clinical examinations regarding bone involvement. The identification of some clinical parameters such as location, clinical presentation, and TNM stage, associated with a detailed clinical examination, was considered a valuable tool for the assessment of bone destruction by oral malignant tumors.

Keywords : Oral cancer; Diagnosis, clinical; Tomography, X-ray computed.

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