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Comparison of Salivary Cytokine Levels in Oral Cancer Patients and Healthy Subjects

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Abstract: In order to find informative salivary biomarkers specific to oral cancer we examined expression of 4 kinds of cytokine in saliva. Levels of interleukins (IL-1 β , -6, -8) and osteopontin were measured by ELISA using whole saliva samples collected from 19 patients with oral cancer (9 men, 10 women; mean age, 60.9 years) and 20 healthy persons (15 men, 5 women; mean age, 32 years). Expression of the 4 cytokines was higher in patients with oral cancer than in healthy controls. The difference was significant in IL-6, in particular. The results suggest that saliva offers a potential target for a screening test aimed at detection of precancerous lesions.

Key words: [Saliva](#), [Oral cancer](#), [Screening test](#), [IL-6](#)

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