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Sexual behavior and oral HPV status of general dental patients

High risk Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) has been identified as the causative organism of an increasing number of Oropharyngeal Squamous Cell Carcinomas (OSCCs). Other recognized risk factors include sexual behavior and poor oral hygiene. We set out to investigate whether risk assessment for OPSCC could be undertaken in dental surgeries. Following ethics committee approval, participants aged ≥ 18 years completed demographic/behavioral questionnaires. Oral Hygiene Index (OHI) was recorded. 10 ml of saline oral rinses has been collected prior to dental treatment, were tested for Human Beta Globin gene (HBG) and HPV genotypes by PCR. The mean age of the 300 participants was 48 years (range 19-87), of whom 131 (43.6%) were male, 12 (9.2%) of men reported a history of sexually transmitted infections and one (0.3%) was known to be HIV infected. HBG was detected in all samples and HPV genotypes in six samples (2.0%), all men. The HPV genotypes were one each of types 16, 66, 51, 35, 58 in five participants and 18 combined with 52 in one participant. 89 (67.9%) of men reported oral sex practices. Four (4.5%) of these 89 had oral HPV detected. The clinical relationship between the dental practitioner and patients enabled the collection of potentially sensitive demographic and behavioral data. Oral hygiene assessment was performed accurately and professionally. Oral rinse sampling was well tolerated by participants. Dental surgeries may be ideally placed to undertake risk evaluation for OPSCCs. Larger trials are needed to evaluate this method further and determine correlations between persistent oral HPV infection and risk.

Biography

Beata Rumianek has completed her Bachelors in Dental Surgery from The University of Sydney and Masters in HIV, STIs and Sexual Health from Sydney University School of Medicine. She is currently a PhD student at the Medical School at Sydney University. She has presented at conferences including Eurogin in Amsterdam in 2017, FDI in Poznan in 2016. She has lectured in Sydney and Phnom Penh, Cambodia. She is a Clinician in a private practice in Sydney, Australia.

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