

CHAPTER 6: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Several observations from the current study revealed a few common characteristics pertaining to the OSCC found in Malaysia. OSCC is a disease of the old age generally afflicting patients in their 5th and 6th decade of lives. Indian females were identified as the high risk group with buccal mucosa tumours while tongue tumours were found mainly in Chinese males. There were more well and moderately differentiated tumours, however more tumours exhibited non cohesive pattern of invasion type 3 and 4.

The expression of Ki-67, p53, MDM-2 and Bcl-2 at the tumour invasive front might not be the candidate markers for prognosis and to predict the course of the disease as no correlation was found between the expression and any demographic or clinicopathological parameters. However, the tumour invasive front remains an important area for assessment as most biological activities occurred at this area.

The driving force of oral carcinogenesis in this group of subjects might be the dysfunction p53 pathway as a result of overexpression of the MDM-2 and Bcl-2 protein.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Patients with good record of sociodemographic and clinicopathological data should be included in the future studies as this study suffered from the lack of data on habits and TNM status. It is also important that there is good follow up in these future cases to determine the impact of these markers on the survival of the patients by using Kaplan-Maier analysis.
2. The exact mechanism of p53 overexpression is still uncertain from the current study and hence analyzing the p53 gene status via mutational analysis will provide insight into the mechanism together with the assessment of MDM-2 overexpression. Archival materials suffered from possible DNA fragmentation resulting in failure to amplify the DNA via Polymerase Chain Reaction and thus it is best to carry out the mutational analysis by using frozen tissues.
3. The role of Bcl-2 could be further assessed by examining the ratio of Bax/Bcl-2. Hence to include immunohistochemical staining of Bax in future study involving Bcl-2.