

ORAL SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMA AND PATIENTS DELAY: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

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Aim: Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma (OSCC) is still one of the most common cancers in the world, with global estimates indicating that there are approximately 354,864 new cases per year. Diagnostic delay is a known factors related to a worst prognosis of OSCC, one of the main causes of delay may be attributed to patient delay. The aim of this research is to analyze those studies relating to patient delay in the literature in order to consider the role of the fear related to OSCC.

Methods: guidelines reported in the PRISMA statement have been followed in order to perform the study. Inclusion and exclusion criteria were applied. In particular, we included studies published in the last 10 years reporting at least 25 patients affected by OSCC and defining the patient's delay (in days or months).

Results: searching through the various databases yielded 179 articles; a total 5 of articles included in this review. The systematic review included 1436 patients. The patient delay ranged from 60 days to 7.4 months with an average diagnostic delay of approximately 3 months.

Conclusions: patient delay, and probably fear, plays a key role in patient's prognosis. This phase of uncertainty, linked to the development of oral lesions of unknown origin, may cause moments of fear in the decision-making processes. The authors believe that awareness campaigns should include the knowledge regarding OSCC and related risk factors, but also consider the role of fear and its impact on patient delay.

IMPACT OF SARS-COV-2 INFECTION AND VACCINATION ON ORAL LESIONS OF IMMUNE ORIGIN: A REVIEW

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Aim: SARS-CoV-2 causes COVID-19, which is characterized by immune dysregulation and production of pro-inflammatory cytokines. This pathogenetic mechanism is common to various lesions that may affect the oral cavity. Moreover, cutaneous and mucosal lesions have been reported after Covid-19 vaccination. This review aims to investigate on the influence of SARS-Cov-2 infection or Covid-19 vaccination on the rise or exacerbation of lesions of immune origin in the oral cavity.

Methods: a literature review was performed in order to identify cases of association between Covid-19 and immune-mediated diseases of the oral cavity. Articles were searched by PubMed, using a combination of "covid-19", "covid-19 vaccination", "lichen planus", "erythema multiforme", "aphthous stomatitis" and "pemphigus" as keywords. Letters to the edi-

tor, case reports and case series were included. Studies without cases reporting an oral involvement were excluded.

Results: aphthous lesions are the most common oral lesions associated with Covid-19. Rare cases of oral lichen planus, erythema multiforme and pemphigus in Covid-19 patients were reported. Cutaneous lesions in conjunction with Covid-19 vaccination were described, sometimes with a mucosal involvement: studies report 5 cases of oral lichen planus, 4 cases of erythema multiforme and 3 cases of pemphigus.

Conclusions: recent articles describe oral lesions of immune origin in conjunction with Covid-19 or following Covid-19 vaccines. The pathogenetic mechanism is unclear and further studies are required to investigate on this possible association. Oral examination should be performed in patients with Covid-19, in order to identify early these lesions.