Trends and clinicopathological characteristics of oral squamous cell carcinomas reported at a tertiary cancer hospital in Nepal during 1999 to 2009

Rashmi Gajurel1,2,3 | Dej Kumar Gautam4 | Chin Bahadur Pun5 | Hari Prasad Dhakal6 | Beáta Éva Petrovski7 | Daniela Elena Costea2,8 | Dipak Sapkota3

1Centre for International Health, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway
2Gade Laboratory for Pathology and Center for Cancer Biomarkers CCBio, Department of Clinical Medicine, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway
3Department of Oral Biology, Faculty of Dentistry, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway
4Department of Surgical Oncology, B.P. Koirala Memorial Cancer Hospital, Bharatpur, Nepal
5Department of Pathology, B. P. Koirala Memorial Cancer Hospital, Bharatpur, Nepal
6Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Nepal Cancer Hospital and Research Centre, Lalitpur, Nepal
7Department of Faculty Administration, IT-section, Faculty of Dentistry, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway
8Department of Pathology, Haukeland University Hospital, Bergen, Norway

Correspondence
Dipak Sapkota, Department of Oral Biology, Faculty of Dentistry, University of Oslo, Oslo 0372, Norway.
Email: dipak.sapkota@odont.uio.no

Abstract

Objective: Reliable data describing the trends and clinicopathological characteristics of oral squamous cell carcinoma (OSCC) in the Nepalese population are very limited. The current study aimed to examine the demographics, trend, and clinicopathological characteristics of OSCC reported to the main referral/tertiary cancer hospital, the B.P. Koirala Memorial Cancer Hospital (BPKMCH) in Nepal for a period of 11 years (1999–2009).

Material and methods: This is a cross-sectional study. Data were retrieved retrospectively from hospital register maintained in the Department of Ear, Nose, Throat at BPKMCH, categorized into demographic and clinicopathological variables and SPSS (V25) was used for the analysis.

Results: In a period of 11 years, 3,452 cases of head and neck cancer were registered at the Department of Ear, Nose, Throat, BPKMCH. Out of 1,111 oral cancer cases, 1,081 (97.3%) were OSCC. A trend for increasing number of OSCCs presenting to BPKMCH was observed during that period. OSCC was found to be more common among males (73.0%), Brahmin/Chhetri ethnic groups (33.0%), in age group of 51–60 years (31.9%), and in Terai region (62.0%). Tongue (42.8%) was the most common site, followed by buccal mucosa (27.2%). Nevertheless, when stratified with respect to the geographical location and ethnicity, buccal mucosa was the most common site for OSCC in Terai region (63.9%, $p = .002$) and in Madhesi ethnic group.
Oral cancer (OC), one major group of head and neck cancer, is a highly aggressive malignant tumor arising from the mucosal lining of the anterior two thirds of tongue, buccal mucosa, gingiva, floor of the mouth, and hard palate (Barnes, Eveson, Reichart, & Sidransky, 2005). Combined with lip and pharyngeal cancers, OC ranks as the seventh most common cancer type worldwide and accounts for approximately 300,000 deaths every year (Shield et al., 2017). Histologically, more than 90% of OCs are oral squamous cell carcinomas (OSCC; San- 

1 | INTRODUCTION

oral cancer, oral squamous cell carcinoma

Although a small country in area, Nepal is rich in diversity of ethnic groups. Majority of the ethnic groups differ from each other with respect to geographic location, sociocultural, and risk factors for OC and at the genetic level (Bennett, Dahal, & Govindasamy, 2008; Cole et al., 2017). For example, smokeless tobacco (gutka and betel quid) is more common in Madhesi ethnic group, residing mostly in the terai region. On the other hand, local (homemade) alcohol is consumed more commonly by Janjati (Mangoloid and Matwali) and Newar ethnic groups. Mangoloids are main inhabitants of mountains whereas Newars mostly reside in hilly regions (Bhatta, 2017; Dhital, Subedi, Gurung, & Hamal, 2001). This emphasizes the urgent need of studies aimed at mapping the epidemiological status of OC/OSCC in the country, taking into consideration the diverse population of the country. The current study aimed to examine the sociodemographics, trend, and clinicopathological characteristics of OSCC reported to the main referral/tertiary cancer hospital, the B.P. Koirala Memorial Cancer Hospital (BPKMCH) in Nepal for a period of 11 years (1999–2009).

2 | STUDY CENTER AND DATA RETRIEVAL: METHODOLOGY

Ethical approval and permission for the current study were obtained from the Nepal Health Research Council (Approval Number 2283) and BPKMCH, respectively. This is a cross-sectional study. Data were retrieved retrospectively from the register maintained in the Department of Ear, Nose, Throat, BPKMCH, Chitwan, Nepal, for a period from 1999 to 2009. BPKMCH is equipped with modern infrastructure and trained manpower and offers comprehensive management of cancer patients from Nepal as well as some from northern part of India. Over a period of 10 years, more than 48% cancer cases in Nepal were diagnosed at BPKMCH, the highest among all hospitals contributing to hospital-based cancer registry in the country (BPKMCH, 2017).

The retrieved data were validated by manually examining the hard copies of patient record files at BPKMCH. The hospital registry followed International Classification of Diseases-10 classification of OC (WHO, 2004) and the WHO-TNM staging for stating the clinical
stage of the tumor (IARC, 2019). Steps in data retrieval and analysis are summarized in Figure 1. Briefly, precancerous oral lesions and other cancer types in the oral cavity (such as basal cell carcinoma, verrucous carcinoma, lymphoma, malignant melanoma, and adenocarcinoma) were excluded from the study. Out of 1,111 OC, 1,081 OSCC cases were used for analyses in the study.

2.1 | Categorization of variables

Registered data were classified into the following demographic and clinicopathological variables:

1. Key demographic variables

- Gender: male, female; age: below 40, 41–50, 51–60, and above 60 years; nationality: Nepali, Indian.
- Ethnic groups: Brahmin/Chhetri, Madhesi, Janajati, and others (Dalit, Newar, Muslim, and Indian; Bennett et al., 2008).
- On the basis of the registered home address, patients were classified into three geographical areas: mountain (northern most part with an elevation that ranges from 4,877 to 8,848 m above the sea level), hills (located south to the mountain region with an elevation of 610 m above the sea level), and Terai (southernmost part that is flat and most densely populated; Central Bureau of Statistics [CBS], 2018). Patients from India were placed under category "others."

2. Clinicopathological variables

- On the basis of the primary site of involvement, OSCC cases were divided in the following major anatomical sites: tongue, buccal mucosa, floor of the mouth, gingiva, palate, retromolar area, and alveolus. According to the surgical team involved in the biopsy/treatment, categorization of cases occurring in labial vestibule, buccal vestibule, and buccal mucosa was not consistent, and the majority of cases were grouped under "buccal mucosa." As OSCC is very common in labial and buccal vestibules (where patients keep smokeless tobacco in the mouth), "buccal mucosa" in fact mostly refers to OSCC arising in labial and buccal vestibules.
- On the basis of (TNM) staging, OSCCs were categorized into Stages I, II, III, or IV.
- On the basis of the type of treatment given, patients were categorized into surgery, radiotherapy, chemotherapy, combination therapy (patient receiving more than one therapy), supportive/palliative, treatment not done, and missing data.

2.2 | Management of missing variables and statistical analysis

Multiple imputation analysis was used to calculate the effect of missing data in the current study and to reduce the possible bias created by the missing variables. Multiple imputation replaces missing values with the imputed ones and gives reasonable assurance that the values being replaced with the imputation process are appropriate and match the other data not missing (by predicting what the actual value may have been). All seven variables (gender, age, ethnicity, geographical distribution, primary site of involvement, staging, and treatment modalities) were analyzed for missingness, out of which 22.2% incomplete data existed for two variables. Almost a fifth (19.6%) of the subjects/cases (212) had missing values in at least one data point, and 2.2% percent of all values had incomplete data.

Statistical analysis was done using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (Version 25 for Windows). Chi-square test was used to examine the relationship between two variables.
3 | RESULTS

In a period of 11 years, 3,452 cases of head and neck cancer were registered at the department of Ear, Nose, Throat, BPKMCH. Out of these, 1,111 were OCs. Approximately 97% (1,081) of OCs were OSCCs (Figure 1). During that period, a trend for increasing number of OSCCs presenting to BPKMCH was found for both males and females (Figure 2). It is, however, interesting to note a sharp decline in the number of OSCCs presented to BPKMCH in 2008. The occurrence of OSCC was found to be higher in males (73.0%) than in females (27.0%; male to female ratio: 2.7:1). Two thirds of patients belonged to the age group of 51–60 years (31.9%), followed by >60 years (28.7%), 41–50 years (21.6%), and < 40 years (17.8%). With respect to ethnicity, Brahmin/Chhetri (33.0%) were the most affected groups, followed by Madhesi (26.0%) and Janajati (22.0%). The geographical distribution of OSCC showed that 62.0% of patients were from Terai, 30.0% from hills, 1.5% from mountains, and 6.5% were from India.

On the basis of the primary site of involvement, tongue was the most common site (42.8%), followed by buccal mucosa (27.2%), floor of the mouth (13.8%), palate (6.5%) and gingiva (6.3%), retromolar area (2.6%), and alveolus (0.8%). Nevertheless, when stratified with respect to the geographical location and ethnicity, buccal mucosa was the most common site for OSCC in Terai region (63.9%, \( p = .002 \)) and in Madhesi ethnic group (34.2%, \( p < .001 \); Tables 1 and 2). Almost half (49.7%) of the OSCCs were found to be diagnosed at late stage (Stage IV), followed by Stage III (18.3%). Only a small number of patients were diagnosed at Stage II (10.6%) and Stage I (2.7%). For 18.7% of the cases, data were missing for disease stage (Table S1).

Almost half (42.0%) of the patients received combination therapy (i.e., surgery, radiotherapy, or chemotherapy) for the treatment of OSCC lesions. Only 16.7% OSCCs were treated with radiation only, 14.1% with chemotherapy, and 4.4% with surgery. Few patients (1.9%) received palliative/supportive treatment, 14.2% did not receive any treatment, whereas for 6.7%, data were missing on treatment.
received. Late stage OSCCs were significantly related with combination therapy ($p < .0001$; Table S2). Additionally, significant positive relation was found between stage and age ($p = .031$) and stage and male sex ($p = .003$; Table S2).

Information on risk habits for OSCC were missing in more than 20% of the cases and were therefore excluded from the study.

4 | DISCUSSION

Epidemiological study of a disease provides key information that can be used for understanding the etiology of the disease and to plan preventive and management strategies (Gracia et al., 2017). This study provides descriptive epidemiology of OSCC and its characteristics in a referral cancer hospital in Nepal from 1999 to 2009.

The present study revealed a trend for increasing number of OSCCs presenting to BPKMCH over the study period in both males and females (Figure 1). Several factors might have contributed to this observation. First and importantly, during the earlier years of data collection, the hospital was in its earlier days of service (Nepal Law Commission, 1997) and therefore the patients’ attendance to the hospital might have been lower. Second, higher level of patient awareness for the disease and increased accessibility to BPKMCH during the later years might have resulted in higher number of OSCC patients attending BPKMCH. Despite of the introduction of Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (tobacco law) in Nepal, the tobacco control has been ineffective due to limited resources and poor implementation, especially in the rural areas of Nepal (WHO, 2008, 2011). Indeed, increased availability and accessibility to risk factors such as smokeless tobacco (Subedi & Sharma, 2013) might also have contributed to the increasing numbers of OSCCs reported to BPKMCH.

A moderate decline in OSCCs was seen in 2008. This might be related to a low patient attendance to hospital due to insurgency and political crisis in the country during that year. Most of the transport systems had been affected due to frequent strikes and curfews (British Broadcasting Corporation, 2008). This is consistent with a report from the same hospital that showed an increasing trend for cancer cases in Nepal from 2003 to 2012 with slight drop in 2008 (Poudel, Huang, & Neupane, 2016).

OSCC was more frequent in males than in females, similar to a recent report by GLOBOCAN (IARC, 2018) and studies from the neighboring country India (Malhotra et al., 2014; Salian, Dinakar, Shetty, & Ajila, 2016). The higher number of OSCCs among males might be related to higher percentage of males using tobacco products (betel quid and tobacco chewing) and alcohol than women, as suggested by previous reports (Lee et al., 2011).

An explanation for the link between males and late stage OSCC as observed in the current study is currently unknown. However, one cannot rule out the possibility that men give less priority to oral health than women, thereby seeking medical attention late in the disease process (Nimako-Boateng, Owusu-Antwi, & Nortey, 2016).

The risk of developing OSCC increases with age, and this disease is considered as a neoplasm of fifth decade(Barnes et al., 2005). In line with this, the mean age for OSCCs was 55 years in our study, an age group considered as a risk group of OC (Zini, Czerninski, & Sgante-Cohen, 2010). This result is in accordance with several other studies from different demographic groups (Alves et al., 2017; Malhotra et al., 2014).

In the present study, the most common site for OSCC was tongue followed by buccal mucosa. Although similar to global reports (Feller & Lemmer, 2012; Pires et al., 2013), this observation is somewhat surprising given the fact that smokeless tobacco habit, where the tobacco product is kept in contact with the epithelium in the buccal/labial vestibule, is a common practice in Nepal (Subedi & Sharma, 2013). However, when stratified with respect to geography, 63.9% of OSCC from Terai region were located in buccal vestibule. Indeed, smokeless tobacco habit is more prevalent in people from Terai as compared with the people in hills and mountains (Bhatta, 2017).

The present study revealed a higher occurrence of OSCC among Brahman/Chhetri as compared with other ethnic groups. Several factors might have contributed to this observation. First, Brahman/Chhetris constitute the largest proportion of Nepalese population (CBS, 2018). Second, tobacco use has been suggested to be more common in Brahmans/Chhetris as compared with other ethnic groups (Raspani et al., 2015). Third, difference in the genotypes among different ethnic groups might have contributed to a variable susceptibility to carcinogenesis (Özdemir & Dotto, 2017). Indeed, different ethnic groups in Nepal seem to have diverse genetic makeup (Cole et al., 2017).

The geographical distribution demonstrated that the highest number of OSCC patients were from Terai, followed by the hilly and mountain regions. A similar pattern has been suggested in previous reports (Bhatta, 2017). The high number of OSCCs in Terai region is likely because it is the most populated area among the three geographical regions (CBS, 2018). However, likely contribution of higher number OSCC cases associated with prevalent habit of smokeless tobacco and easy access to BPKMCH cannot be ruled out. This warrants more in-depth population-based studies to investigate/clarify the association between OSCC cases and geographical location.

In developing countries like Nepal, the diagnosis of OSCC at an advanced stage is common (Chettri, Bhandary, Singh, Sinha, & Karki, 2013; Malhotra et al., 2014). Likewise, more than two thirds of the patients were found to be at Stages III and IV in this study. The late presentation of OSCC is likely due to lack of awareness about the disease, high cost associated with treatment, and/or low priority given to oral health (Osman et al., 2010; Rogers, Vedpathak, & Lowe, 2011). Moreover, pain is not a common symptom of earlier stage OSCC, thereby delaying patients’ attention to medical care (Cuffari, Siqueira, Nembr, & Rapaport, 2006). Treatment modalities of OSCC differ according to the primary site and cervical lymph node metastasis (Warakulasuriya, 2009). Generally single treatment (usually surgery) is the preferred method for early-stage cancers, whereas patients with advanced stage are treated with a combination of surgery and radiotherapy or chemotherapy (Prelec & Laronde, 2014). In parallel, a significant relation between the higher OSCC grade and combination therapy was observed in the current study.
Due to the improper/inadequate record keeping and maintenance of data, information on risk habits for OSCC were missing in more than 20% of the cases and were therefore excluded from the study. We understand that this is a major limitation of the study, given that different types of risk habits are specific-to-specific ethnic groups and geographical locations in Nepal. Moreover, the generalizability of the current findings is limited due to the fact the study is based on patient data from a single main referral cancer hospital, although BPKMCH is the main referral hospital for cancer in Nepal.

In conclusion, hospital-based records can provide valuable information on disease characteristics and generate relevant hypothesis in countries like Nepal where properly conducted population-based studies are limited. However, the record system needs to be optimized to minimize missing variables and to improve correctness of the data. This study revealed that the epidemiology of OSCC in Nepal follows the global trend. Of interest, tongue was identified to be the most common intraoral site, following thus the pattern of OSCC from the Western world rather than the pattern of OSCC in Southeast Asia. Additionally, relationships between specific intraoral sites for OSCC with geographic distribution and ethnic groups are interesting observation that require further population-based studies to substantiate them.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
We would like to sincerely thank Dr. Krishna P. Subedi, Altu Tamang, Sadhana, Nikki, and staffs of BPKMCH for helping during the validation phase of the study. Erasmus mobility grant and Småmidler from Gade Laboratory for Pathology, Department of Clinical Medicine, UiB supported the travel expenses during the field visit.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST
The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS
D. S., D. K. G., and D. E. C. conceived and designed research; D. K. G., C. B. P., H. P. D., and D. S. contributed with data; R. G., B. E. P., and D. S., D. K. G., and D. E. C. conceived and designed research; D. K. G., D. E. C. and D. S. wrote the manuscript. All authors critically reviewed and approved the manuscript.

ORCID
Dipak Sapkota https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0061-825X

REFERENCES
Alves, A., Correa, M., Silva, K., Araújo, L., Vasconcelos, A., Gomes, A., ... Tarquinio, S. (2017). Demographic and clinical profile of oral squamous cell carcinoma from a service-based population. Brazilian Dental Journal, 28(3), 301–306.
Barnes, L., Eveson, J., Reichart, P., & Sidransky, D. (2005). World Health Organization classifications tumours. Pathology and genetics of head and neck tumours. Lyon: IARC.
Bennett, L., Dahal, D., & Govindasamy, P. (2008). Cast ethnic and regional identity in Nepal: Further analysis of the 2006 Nepal demographic and health survey. Calverton, Maryland, USA: Macro International Inc.
Bhatt, C., Sharan, K., Ninan, J., Sathian, B., Ween, B., & Olsen, D. (2009). Cancer treatment by radiotherapy in western Nepal: A hospital based study. Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention, 10(2), 205–208.
Bhatta, P. (2017). Oral cancer risk among tobacco chusers in Nepal. IJUR, 3(6), 715–719.
BPKMCH (2017). B. P. Koirala Memorial Cancer Hospital. National cancer registry program. Hospital based cancer registry. Ten years consoli-dated report (2003-2012 AD). In Hospital based report.
British Broadcasting Corporation. (2008). British Broadcasting Corporation Nepal votes to abolish monarchy. NEWS; Wednesday, May 28, 2008. Retrieved from http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/7424302.stm.
CBS. (2018). Central Bureau of Statistics, Government of Nepal (p. 2017). Statistical year book. Census. Kathmandu: National planning commision.
Chen, S.-W., Zhang, Q., Guo, Z.-M., Chen, W.-K., Liu, W.-W., Chen, Y.-F., ... Ou-Yang, D. (2018). Trends in clinical features and survival of oral cavity cancer: Fifty years of experience with 3,362 consecutive cases from a single institution. Cancer Management and Research, 10, 4523–4535.
Cheong, S., Vatanasapt, P., Yi-Hsin, Y., Zain, R., Kerr, A., & Johnson, N. (2017). Oral cancer in South East Asia: Current status and future direc-tions. Translational Research in Oral Oncology, 2 2057178X17702921.
Chettiri, S., Bhandary, S., Singh, R., Sinha, A., & Karki, S. (2013). Pattern of head and neck malignancies in eastern part of Nepal. Nepal Medical College Journal, 15(1), 34–36.
Cole, A., Cox, S., Jeong, C., Petousi, N., Aryan, D., Droma, Y., ... Gasparini, P. (2017). Genetic structure in the Sherspa and neighboring Nepalese populations. BMC Genomics, 18(1), 102.
Cuffari, L., Siqueira, J., Nembr, K., & Rapaptor, A. (2006). Pain complaint as the first symptom of oral cancer: A descriptive study. Oral Surgery, Oral Medicine, Oral Pathology, Oral Radiology, and Endodontics, 102(1), 56–61.
Dhillon, P., Mathur, P., Nandakumar, A., Fitzmaurice, C., Kumar, G., Mehrotra, R., ... Swaminathan, R. (2018). The burden of cancers and their variations across the states of India: The global burden of disease study 1990–2016. The Lancet Oncology, 19(10), 1289–1306.
Dhitral, R., Subedi, G., Gurung, Y. B., & Hamal, P. (2001). Alcohol and drug use un nepal. Kathmandu: Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Centre (CWIN).
Feller, L., & Lemmer, J. (2012). Oral squamous cell carcinoma: Epidemiol-ogy, clinical presentation and treatment. JCT, 30(4), 263–268.
Gillison, M., Chaturvedi, A., Anderson, W., & Fakhry, C. (2015). Epidemiology of human papillomavirus-positive head and neck squamous cell carcinoma. Journal of Clinical Oncology, 33(29), 3235–3242.
Gracia, I., Utoro, T., Supriatno, S., Astuti, I., Heriyanto, D., & Pramono, D. (2017). Epidemiologic profile of oral squamous cell carcinoma in Yog-yakarta, Indonesia. Padjadjaran Journal of Dentistry, 29(1).
IARC. (2018). International Agency for Research on Cancer. World Health Organization. Population fact sheets-2018. Nepal; 2018. Retrieved from https://gco.iarc.fr/today/data/factsheets/populations/524-nepal-fact-sheets.pdf.
IARC. (2019). International Agency for Research on Cancer, World Health Organisation. TNN classification of carcinomas of the lip and oral cavity. Retrieved from https://screening.iarc.fr/atlasoralclassiftnm.php.
Joshi, P., Dutta, S., Chaturvedi, P., & Nair, S. (2014). Head and neck cancers in developing countries. Rambam Maimonides Medical Journal, 5(2), e0009.
Lee, C. H., Ko, A. S., Warnaaksulriyv, S., Yin, B. L., Zain, R., Ibrahim, S., ... Utomo, B. (2011). Intercountry prevalences and practices of betel-quid use in south, Southeast and Eastern Asia regions and associated oral preneoplasic disorders: An international collaborative study by Asian betel-quid consortium of south and East Asia. International Journal of Cancer, 129(7), 1741–1751.
Malhotra, A., Borle, R., Bhola, N., Deshpande, R., Mundada, B., & Lohiya, P. (2014). Demographic, histopathological patterns and clinical profile of
oral squamous cell carcinoma (OSCC) at a tertiary level referral hospital in Vidarbha (Central India): A 7-year retrospective study. J Dental Med Sci, 13(11), 53–56.

Nepal Law Commission (1997). Nepal Law Commission. The B.P. Koirala Memorial Cancer Hospital Act, 2053(1997). In Retrieved from. http://www.lawcommission.gov.np/en/archives/category/documents/prevailing-law/statutes-acts/the-b-p-koirala-memorial-cancer-hospital-act-20531997

Nimako-Boateng, J., Owusu-Antwi, M., & Nortey, P. (2016). Factors affecting dental diseases presenting at the University of Ghana Hospital. Springerplus, 5(1), 1709.

Osman, T., Satti, A., Bøe, O., Yang, Y.-H., Ibrahim, S., & Suleiman, A. (2010). Pattern of malignant tumors registered at a referral oral and maxillofacial hospital in Sudan during 2006 and 2007. J Can Res Ther, 6(4), 473–477.

Özdemir, B., & Dotto, G.-P. (2017). Racial differences in cancer susceptibility and survival: More than the color of the skin? Trends Cancer, 3(3), 181–197.

Pires, F., Ramos, A., Oliveira, J., Tavares, A., Luz, P., & Santos, T. C. R. B. d. (2013). Oral squamous cell carcinoma: Clinicopathological features from 346 cases from a single oral pathology service during an 8-year period. Journal of Applied Oral Science, 21(5), 460–467.

Poudel, K., Huang, Z., & Neupane, P. (2016). Trend of cancer incidence in Nepal from 2003 to 2012. Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention, 17(4), 2171–2175.

Prelec, J., & Laronde, D. (2014). Treatment modalities of oral cancer. Can J Dent Hyg, 48(1), 13–19.

Pun, C., Pradhananga, K., Siwakoti, B., Subedi, K., & Moore, M. A. (2015). Malignant neoplasm burden in Nepal-Data from the seven major cancer service hospitals for 2012. Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention, 16(18), 8659–8663.

Raspathi, G., Hashibe, M., Siwakoti, B., Wei, M., Thakur, B., Pun, C., ... Sapkota, A. (2015). Ethnic variation in consumption of traditional tobacco products and lung cancer risk in Nepal. Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention, 16(14), 5721–5726.

Rogers, S., Vedpathak, S., & Lowe, D. (2011). Reasons for delayed presentation in oral and oropharyngeal cancer: The patients perspective. The British Journal of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, 49(5), 349–353.

Salian, V., Dinakar, C., Shetty, P., & Ajila, V. (2016). Etiological trends in oral squamous cell carcinoma: A retrospective institutional study. Cancer Translation Medicine, 2(2), 33.

Sanderson, R., Wei, W., & Ironside, J. (2002). Clinical review squamous cell carcinomas of the head and neck commentary: Head and neck carcinomas in the developing world. BMJ, 325(7368), 822–827.

Sankaranarayanan, R., Black, R., Swaminathan, R., & Parkin, D. (1998). An overview of cancer survival in developing countries. IARC Scientific Publications, 135–157.

Shield, K., Ferlay, J., Jemal, A., Sankaranarayanan, R., Chaturvedi, A., Bray, F., & Soerjomataram, I. (2017). The global incidence of lip, oral cavity, and pharyngeal cancers by subsite in 2012. CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians, 67(1), 51–64.

Subedi, K., & Sharma, P. (2013). Tobacco-attributed cancer incidence is rising in Nepal due to increasing prevalence of tobacco use: A major challenging burden for Nepal. Austral-Asian Journal of Cancer, 12, 89–95.

Warnakulasuriya, S. (2009). Global epidemiology of oral and oropharyngeal cancer. Oral Oncology, 45(4), 309–316.

WHO (2004). World Health Organization. International statistical classification of diseases and related health problems. World Health Organization, 2004.

WHO (2008). World Health Organization. WHO report on the global tobacco epidemic. In 2008: the MPOWER package: World Health Organization.

WHO (2011). World Health Organization. WHO report on the global tobacco epidemic. In 2011: Warning about the dangers of tobacco. Geneva: World Health Organization.

WHO (2018). World Health Organization. Retrieved from. In Cancer news. Key facts: World Health Organization. https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/cancer.

Zini, A., Czerninski, R., & Sgan-Cohen, H. (2010). Oral cancer over four decades: Epidemiology, trends, histology. And Survival by Anatomical Sites. J Oral Pathol Med, 39(4), 299–305.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional supporting information may be found online in the Supporting Information section at the end of this article.

How to cite this article: Gajurel R, Gautam DK, Pun CB, et al. Trends and clinicopathological characteristics of oral squamous cell carcinomas reported at a tertiary cancer hospital in Nepal during 1999 to 2009. Clin Exp Dent Res. 2020;6:356–362. https://doi.org/10.1002/cre2.278