## Evaluation of the immunohistochemical expression of the interleukin-1 signaling pahtway in oral cancer: preliminary results

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**Objectives.** Interleukin-1 (IL-1) is a family of cytokines that regulate inflammation by controlling a variety of innate immune processes. This study aims to evaluate the immunohistochemical expression of members of the IL-1 family in oral squamous cell carcinoma (OSCC) and determine its association with clinicopathological features.

**Methods.**The immunohistochemical expression of IL-1 $\alpha$ , IL-1 $\beta$ , IL-1RA and IL-1R1 in the tumor invasion front (TIF) of 47 OSCC cases was evaluated. Immunoexpressions were evaluated according to histological grade, perineural invasion, recurrence, and clinical stage.

**Results.** The TIF of all OSCC cases were positive with degrees of immunoexpression ranging from moderate to severe for IL-1 $\alpha$  (1.93±0.87), IL-1 $\beta$  (2.09±0.83), IL-1RA (2.5± 0.71) and IL-1R1 (2.02±0.84). There was a higher proportion of cases with high expression of IL-1RA (62.5%). A statistically significant association was found between low IL-1 $\alpha$  immunoexpression and greater recurrence (p=0.018). No significant association was observed between the other members of the IL-1 family and any of the prognostic factors evaluated.

**Conclusions.** The results of this study suggest that decreased tissue expression of proinflammatory factors of the IL-1 family can be related to increased recurrence in OSCC cases. However, its role seems to be more relevant in the etiopathogenesis of the disease than in its prognostic factors.

**Key words.** Oral squamous cell carcinoma, oral cáncer, immunohistochemistry, interleukin-1, recurrence, prognostic

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