

Salivary Gland Cancer Prevalence in African Americans

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Purpose of Study

To examine the prevalence of salivary gland cancer in African Americans.

Background Information

- Salivary gland cancer can affect the tongue, neck, head, larynx, throat, lips, mouth, nose, and salivary glands.
- There are two types of salivary glands, major and minor.

Risk Factors

- Older age
- Male gender
- Radiation exposure
- Family history
- Certain workplace exposure
- Tobacco and alcohol use
- Diet (low on vegetables and high on animal fat)*
- Cell phone use *
- * Equals more research is needed

Symptoms

- Pain or swelling in your neck, cheek, jaw or neck.
- Weakness in part of your face.
- Trouble opening your mouth wide or swallowing.
- Fluid draining from your ear.

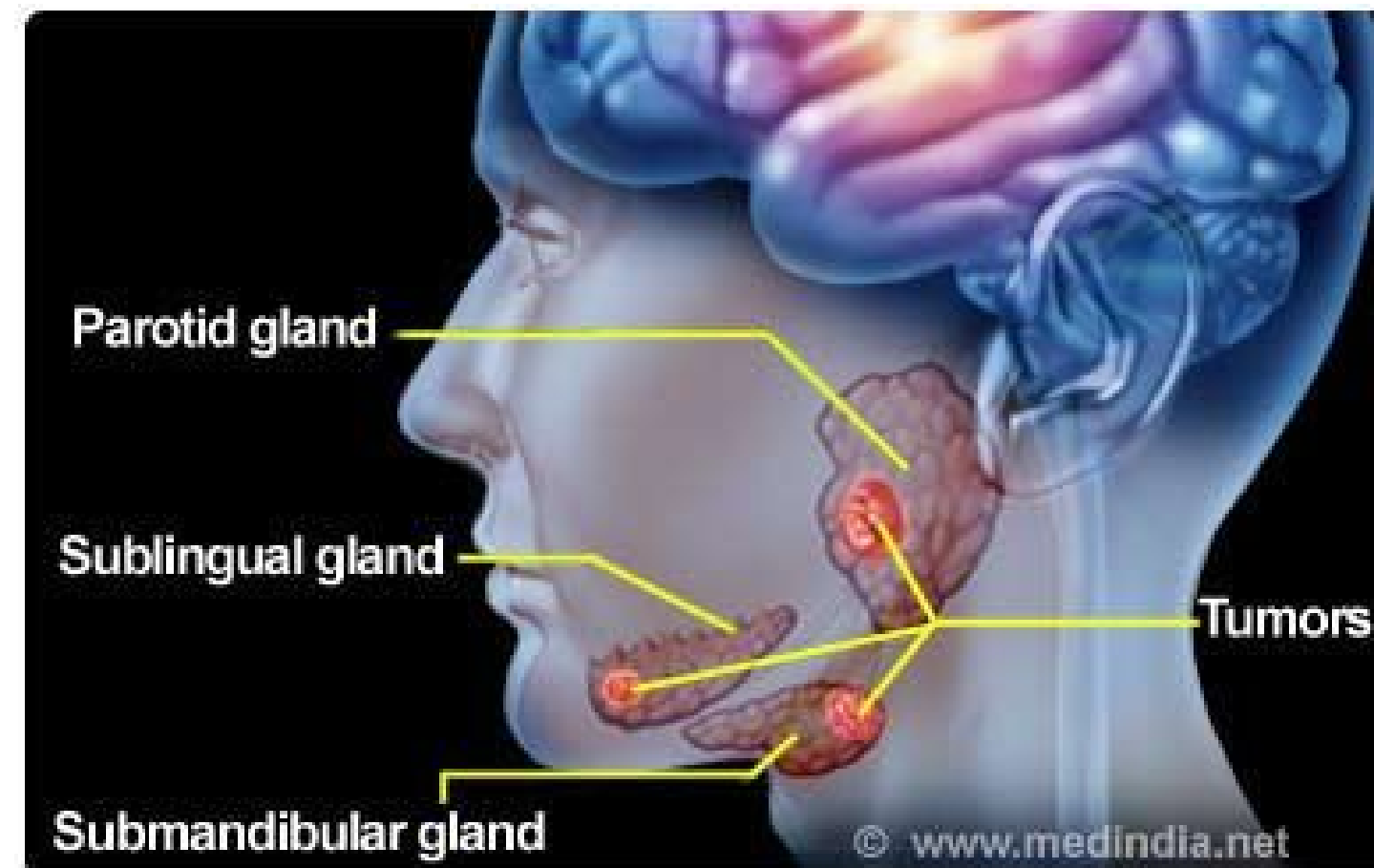


Figure 1. Types of major salivary glands that can develop tumors. (www.medindia.net)

Prevention and Screening

The cause of salivary gland cancer is unknown. It cannot be prevented.

Treatment

- Surgery
- Chemotherapy
- Radiation

Factors Influencing Disparity

- Lack of access to quality healthcare
- Poverty
- Unhealthy diet
- Less healthy food available in the community
- Living in an unhealthy neighborhood, with exposure to environmental toxins
- Using harmful products such as cigarettes
- Living in stressful environments

Data

Black race is a risk factor for poorer disease-specific survival for patients with mucoepidermoid or squamous cell salivary gland cancers.

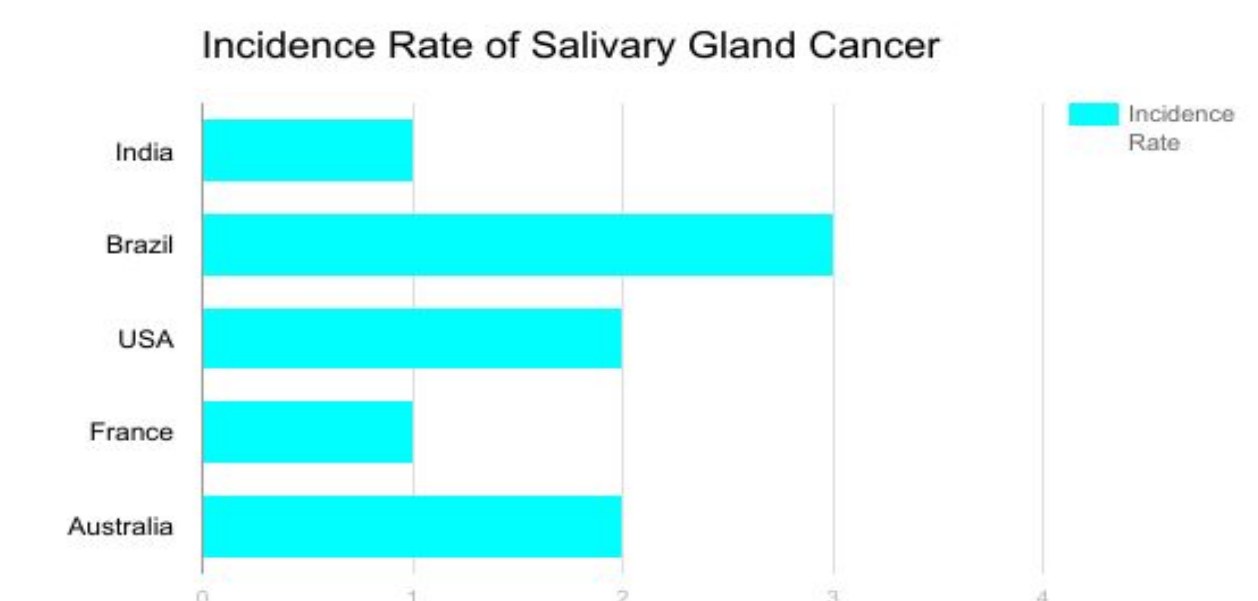


Figure 2. Standardized Incidence Rate (1/100,000) of salivary gland cancer in the United States compared to other countries

Addressing the Disparity

- Educate UMB CURE Scholars about cancer disparities.
- Educate families.
- Educate community.
- Become healthcare providers.
- Become cancer researchers.

References

1. Russel JL. JAMA Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg. 2014. 140:504.
2. American Cancer Society (www.cancer.org)
3. www.medindia.net