

Oral cancer research: A Scientometric assessment of Indian publications output during 2003-2012

Abstract

The paper examines 1832 papers in Indian mouth cancer, as covered in Scopus database during 2003-2012, experiencing an annual average growth rate of 14.37% and citation impact of 4.51. The world mouth cancer output (37,049 papers) came from several countries, of which the top 10 (United States, Japan, UK, Germany, India, China, etc.) accounts for 75.59% share of the global output during 2003-2012. In terms of relative citation index (RCI), only five countries registered the value above 1: France (1.74), USA (1.33), Germany (1.21), UK (1.16) and Italy (1.06). India's global publication share was 4.94% and hold 7th rank in global publication output during 2003-2012. India's accounts for 2.29% share and 9th rank in global citations output. Its average citation per paper and RCI was 4.51 and 0.46 and hold 10th rank among top 10 countries in both of them. The Indian mouth cancer output came from several organizations and authors, of which the top 15 contributed 43.39% and 21.89% share, respectively during 2003-2012. India's international collaborative share in mouth cancer was 14.85%, which decreased from 15.34% during 2003-2007 to 14.70% during 2008-2012. Medicine accounted for the largest share (73.96%) of output in mouth cancer, followed by biochemistry, genetics and molecular biology (30.08% share), dentistry (17.36% share), pharmacology, toxicology and pharmaceuticals (12.34% share), chemistry (2.73% share), immunology and microbiology (1.42% share) and health profession (1.09% share). Diagnosis, surgery, pathology and radiotherapy together account for 53.71% publications share among treatments methods used in Indian mouth cancer research during 2003-2012. Tongue, salivary gland, buccal mucosa and gingival reported the largest number of papers by cancer site with publications share of 12.17%, 9.28%, 8.79%, and 6.28% respectively during 2003-2012. Only four states, namely Maharashtra, Karnataka, Delhi and Tamil Nadu together contributed 61.74% share in Indian publications output in mouth cancer during 2003-2012. The medical colleges contributed the highest publications share (36.68%) to Indian publications in mouth cancer during 2003-2012, followed by hospitals (19.81%), universities (18.45%), research institutes (12.66%), institutes of national importance (11.74%, industrial units (0.49%), etc., during 2003-2012.

Key words: Bibliometrics, India, mouth cancer, oral cancer, publications, scientometrics

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INTRODUCTION

Cancer of the oral cavity (known as oral or mouth cancer) is a group of diseases in which abnormal group of cells (tumor) are found in the tissues of the lip or mouth. The oral cavity begins at the lips and extends backwards to the front part of the tonsils. Beginning at the front of the upper and lower lips is the very specialized tissue called the vermilion border, which lines the lips. Once inside the mouth, this entire region is coated with a lining that is specialized to provide lubrication of the oral activity. The bone of the lower jaw called the mandible and of the upper jaw, called the hard palate, are also included in this region as well as the teeth. The lining of the mouth becomes thick overlying this bone. Directly behind the lower teeth is a smooth gutter, known as the floor of the mouth. Here, the lower salivary gland empties saliva through specialized ducts just under the tip of the tongue. The front two-thirds of the tongue are also included within the oral cavity. The tongue consists of the