Review article

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RADIOLOGICAL DIAGNOSIS OF MALIGNANT TUMORS OF THE ORAL CAVITY

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The oral cavity and oropharynx represent the topmost parts of the digestive tract, which is unique due to both its complex anatomy and tissue structures localized in a small area. In the head and neck region, oral carcinomas are characterized by high prevalence and mortality, multifactorial etiology and delayed diagnosis. Their prognosis, as in other tumors, depends on the disease stage. More than 90% of the mouth and oropharynx malignant tumors are histopathologically diagnosed as squamous cell carcinomas. Their clinical diagnosis is based on the inspection and palpation, and cranial nerve neurological examinations. The use of computerized tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is a key step in the staging of oral cavity tumors and adequate therapy planning. The knowledge of radiological anatomy and pathology of this region is of great importance in making adequate diagnostic conclusions.

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