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EXPLORING THE POTENTIAL CHALLENGES OF PROTEOMICS IN DENTISTRY A CRITICAL REVIEW

DrV.Ramya¹, DrJulius Amaldas², DrJ Bhuvanessarri³

¹research Scholar, Professor Sree Balaji Dental College Chennai 100; Biher University;

²professor & Hod Department Of Biochemistry, Sree Balaji Dental College

³professor Department Of Periodontics, Sree Balaji Dental College

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Abstract: proteomics has emerged as a highly promising and innovative field within dentistry, offering a wide range of possibilities for non-invasive and convenient diagnostics, monitoring, and prediction of oral health conditions. By analyzing proteins present in saliva and utilizing advanced high throughput proteomic techniques, researchers have unlocked new avenues for identifying potential biomarkers linked to various oral diseases. Consequently, the application of salivary proteomics has the capacity to bring about a revolutionary transformation in the field of dentistry, providing invaluable insights into the pathogenesis, early detection, and personalized treatment of oral diseases. This comprehensive review aims to explore the multifaceted applications and recent advancements of salivary proteomics in various aspects of dentistry, shedding light on both its potential and limitations. By conducting a thorough evaluation of the current state of salivary proteomics in dentistry, this review seeks to underscore its significance and the opportunities it presents for enhancing oral healthcare. The review will delve into how proteomic techniques have enabled the identification of specific protein signatures that could serve as indicators for various oral health conditions, including periodontal diseases, dental caries, and even oral cancers. Through the identification of salivary biomarkers, dental professionals can not only achieve more accurate disease diagnoses but also predict disease progression and treatment responses more effectively, thereby enabling personalized healthcare approaches for individual patients. In conclusion, salivary proteomics holds immense promise in transforming the landscape of dentistry. Its non-invasive nature, combined with its potential to offer valuable insights into oral health conditions, makes it an exciting area of research. This comprehensive review aims to provide a detailed overview of the current state of salivary proteomics in dentistry, discussing its applications, challenges, and future prospects.

Keywords: Proteomics; Saliva; Oral Cancer; Biomarkers;

diagnostics

I. INTRODUCTION

SALIVARY PROTEOME, COMPOSITION AND CHARACTERISTICS OF SALIVARY PROTEINS

The salivary proteome's wide variety of proteins has considerable potential in dentistry as a non-invasive technique for monitoring dental health. Saliva, a readily available biofluid, comprises proteins derived from numerous oral cavity sources, including salivary glands, oral mucosa, gingival crevicular fluid, and bacteria. The characterisation of the salivary proteome has provided useful insights into both normal physiological processes and pathological situations that occur in the oral cavity, resulting in the discovery of possible biomarkers for oral illnesses¹. The salivary proteome is diverse and dynamic, reflecting saliva's multifunctional involvement in dental health maintenance. It includes a variety of protein classes, including enzymes involved in carbohydrate, lipid, and protein digestion². Antimicrobial peptides, such as defensins and histatins, help the innate immune system defend against oral infections³. Mucins, for example, are structural proteins that aid in the lubrication, protection, and adhesion of oral tissues⁴. Immunological-related proteins, such as immunoglobulins and cytokines, help to regulate immunological responses and inflammation⁵. Tissue repair and regeneration are aided by growth factors such as epidermal growth factor (EGF) and transforming growth factor-beta (TGF-β)⁶. Other salivary components are transported and stabilised by transport proteins such as salivary amylase-binding protein and cystatins⁷. Salivary proteins have distinct properties that make them ideal candidates for diagnostic use. For starters, they provide a direct representation of the local oral environment, revealing information about oral health and disease processes. Second, these proteins are stable and can tolerate a wide range of environmental conditions, making them ideal for sample collection, storage, and transportation. Furthermore, because saliva collection is non-invasive, it offers an attractive alternative to established diagnostic approaches that include blood or tissue sampling. Furthermore, saliva has the potential to be a useful source of biomarkers for systemic illnesses with oral symptoms, such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and autoimmune disorders⁸. Saliva has recently piqued the interest of researchers due to its non-invasive nature and information-rich composition, which is comparable to other bodily fluids such as urine, blood, and bile⁹⁻¹³. Saliva has an amazing diversity of over 800 identified compounds, making it equivalent in complexity and amount of metabolites to human serum metabolomes. Because saliva contains diagnostic analytes that correspond with blood levels, it has the potential to be a valuable biological fluid for drug monitoring and biomarker screening¹⁴. Saliva analysis has a wide range of uses, including early identification, diagnosis, and monitoring the course of both oral and systemic disorders. It may also be used to evaluate the efficacy of treatment regimens and identify exposure to hazardous chemicals^{15,16}. Given its multiple advantages, saliva stands out as a prospective resource for a variety of diagnostic and research applications, prompting rising study interest¹⁷.

SALIVARY BIOMARKERS AND THEIR RELEVANCE¹⁸

Biomarkers are important in medicine because they are valuable biological indicators that may be examined and used to diagnose, monitor, or forecast the course of many illnesses. These markers have been widely studied for their importance in both systemic and oral health issues and have been detected in many biological samples. Biomarkers have shown to be vital tools in the field of medicine, allowing doctors to establish accurate and fast diagnoses, develop personalised treatment regimens, and efficiently monitor therapy responses. There are several instances of biomarkers that have found uses in the diagnosis and therapy of systemic and oral disorders. Specific biomarkers discovered in blood or tissue samples, for example, have proved useful in identifying distinct cancer types, enabling early diagnosis, and measuring disease aggressiveness in cancer research. Such biomarkers have transformed oncology, assisting in the development of tailored medicines and considerably improving patient outcomes. Biomarkers such as troponins and B-type natriuretic peptides have proved useful in identifying heart attacks and heart failure in the setting of cardiovascular disorders. By identifying these indicators in blood samples, healthcare providers may undertake relevant therapies more quickly, lowering the likelihood of adverse events and increasing patient survival rates. Salivary biomarkers have received a lot of interest in dentistry since they are non-invasive and easy to use. These saliva biomarkers have shown remarkable promise in the early identification of a variety of oral disorders, including periodontal

disease, dental caries, and oral malignancies. Incorporating salivary biomarkers into normal dental examinations can help with the early detection of oral health concerns, triggering timely treatments, and protecting overall oral health¹⁹. Furthermore, biomarkers have proved to be useful in tracking disease development and therapy responses. Glycated haemoglobin (HbA1c) is a biomarker for long-term glucose management in chronic illnesses such as diabetes, directing therapy changes to maintain optimal glycemic levels²⁰. Monitoring biomarkers in gingival crevicular fluid in periodontal therapy can assist measure treatment response and give insights into the disease process effectiveness of the intervention. As biomarker research improves, more and more precise signs are identified, improving the accuracy and precision of diagnostic and prognostic evaluations. Furthermore, current attempts to identify biomarkers linked to personalised therapy responses offer the possibility of personalising medical and dental procedures to specific patients, maximising therapeutic advantages while minimising negative effects. Finally, biomarkers have emerged as vital instruments in modern medicine, providing invaluable insights into the diagnosis, monitoring, and prediction of a wider range of systemic and oral disorders. Their importance in personalised medicine is expanding, and they have enormous potential to alter healthcare practises. Healthcare workers may seek to provide more accurate and effective patient care, eventually leading to greater health, by continually discovering and leveraging the potential of biomarkers (Figure 1).

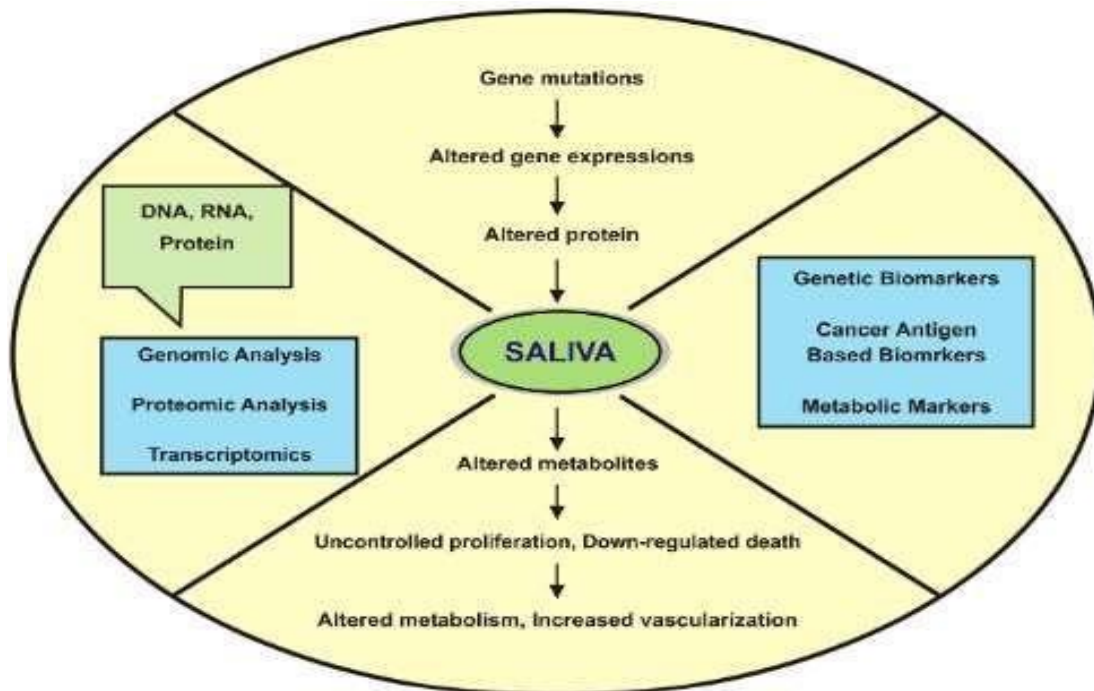


Figure 1. Saliva's clinical usefulness and the process demonstrating carcinogenesis possibilities for biomarkers ²¹

GENOMICBIOMARKERS²²

These biomarkers are important in personalised medicine since they are based on genetic differences that might alter susceptibility to particular diseases or an individual's response to specific therapies. The discovery and comprehension of such biomarkers has enormous promise for personalising medical therapies to each patient's unique genetic composition and medical profile, ultimately optimising therapeutic results. The BRCA1 and BRCA2 gene mutations are notable examples of genetic biomarkers with significant clinical consequences²³. These precise genetic changes are linked to an increased risk of breast and ovarian cancer. Individuals who possess these mutations are more likely than the general population to acquire certain malignancies. The presence of these genetic indicators can help healthcare providers make better decisions about cancer screening, prevention, and treatment options for high-risk individuals. Healthcare practitioners may take a more proactive and precise approach to healthcare by utilising genetic indicators, recognising possible dangers early on and customising therapies to maximise efficacy while minimising bad effects. This emerging field of genomic biomarker-based medicine has great potential to revolutionise healthcare practises by enabling the delivery of targeted therapies and interventions tailored to each patient's genetic predisposition, ultimately leading to

improved patient outcomes and a more efficient healthcare system. As genomics research advances, the discovery of new biomarkers and their incorporation into clinical practise is expected to propel personalised medicine to new heights, opening up new avenues for disease prevention, early detection, and personalised treatment plans.

PROTEOMIC BIOMARKERS²⁴

These biomarkers are based on an examination of the whole collection of proteins present in a biological sample, providing a comprehensive picture of the protein landscape. Proteomic biomarkers have shown useful in the diagnosis and treatment of a wider range of systemic and oral disorders, demonstrating their potential to transform medical practise and dental healthcare. Proteomic biomarkers provide crucial insights into disease aetiology by investigating the complexities of protein patterns, enabling for more accurate and early illness identification. Furthermore, these biomarkers are critical in developing personalised treatment plans, optimising therapeutic treatments, and evaluating treatment responses for improved patient outcomes. Proteomic biomarkers have emerged as important tools in the field of oral health, finding unique protein signatures linked with a variety of oral illnesses such as periodontal disease, dental caries, oral malignancies, and more.²⁵ The capacity to detect such problems non-invasively, such as by saliva analysis, holds enormous potential for aiding prompt intervention and averting disease development. Furthermore, proteomic biomarkers allow dental practitioners to create individualised treatment regimens that suit each patient's specific oral health needs, resulting in more efficient and focused therapy. Proteomic biomarkers have shown useful in detecting and controlling disorders with oral symptoms in the setting of systemic diseases. Clinicians can learn about the existence and course of systemic illnesses such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and autoimmune problems by analysing protein patterns in saliva or other physiological fluids. Early detection of these disorders using proteomic biomarkers allows for more timely medical treatments, potentially improving patient outcomes and quality of life. However, it is vital to recognise that using proteomic biomarkers in clinical practise is not without difficulties. Standardisation of proteomic methodologies, data analysis, and interpretation continues to be crucial for ensuring consistency and reproducibility of results across diverse research investigations and healthcare contexts. Furthermore, ethical concerns about patient privacy and informed permission must be carefully considered when using proteomic biomarkers. Proteomic research in dentistry and health is set to unleash much more promise as technology advances. Improved analytical tools, data processing methods, and coordinated efforts among researchers, clinicians, and industry stakeholders can all help to speed the translation of proteomic findings into therapeutic applications. Finally, the topic of proteomic biomarkers has enormous potential for improving both oral healthcare and medical diagnostics, ushering in a new age of precision medicine and personalised treatment methods. Proteomic biomarkers will likely play a major part in influencing the future of healthcare and increasing patient well-being on a worldwide scale through continued research and incorporation into clinical practise.

METABOLOMIC BIOMARKERS²⁶

These biomarkers, which rely on the study of tiny molecules found in biological samples, are critical in the advancement of medicine and healthcare. Metabolomics biomarkers have shown useful in the diagnosis and treatment of a variety of illnesses, including but not limited to diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and cancer. Metabolomics is a new science that focuses on the thorough study of metabolites, which are byproducts of biological activities and metabolic events inside an organism. Researchers obtain vital insights into the metabolic pathways and molecular mechanisms underpinning diverse physiological and pathological states by identifying and measuring these metabolites. Metabolomic biomarkers have the benefit of being specific, sensitive, and capable of reflecting changes in an individual's metabolic profile, frequently at an early stage of the disease, in the context of disease diagnosis. Early identification has the potential to improve patient outcomes by allowing for prompt interventions and therapies. In diabetes care, for example, certain metabolomic biomarkers can assist monitor blood glucose levels and measure the efficacy of therapeutic therapies, resulting in better glycemic control and a lower risk of complications. Furthermore, metabolomic indicators have demonstrated potential in cancer research and treatment. Metabolomics can capture the unique metabolic characteristics of cancer cells, giving possible biomarkers for early cancer identification and therapy response monitoring. Furthermore, the identification of metabolic changes in

certain cancer types might pave the way for targeted therapy and the development of novel medications, resulting in better results for cancer patients. As technology and analytical methods evolve, the identification and validation of metabolomic biomarkers will improve precision medicine approaches across several medical fields. Integrating metabolomic data with other omics technologies, such as genomics and proteomics, has the potential to provide a more thorough knowledge of disease causes and personalised treatment approaches. However, problems remain, such as protocol standardisation, large-scale validation studies, and the necessity for strong data analysis methodologies. Nonetheless, the continual success in metabolomics research inspires hope for its continued effect on illness detection, treatment, and overall healthcare improvements.

MICROBIAL BIOMARKERS²⁷

These microbial biomarkers, which are based on the identification of certain microbial species or their products, have received a lot of interest in the diagnosis and treatment of numerous oral disorders, such as periodontitis and dental caries. These biomarkers provide vital information about the underlying oral health issues and assist in customising successful treatment methods by concentrating on the presence or absence of specific bacteria or their metabolites. The discovery and study of these microbial biomarkers has the potential to transform dentistry practice by allowing for more accurate and focused diagnoses as well as personalised treatment regimens for individuals suffering from oral disorders. Furthermore, current research in this field is revealing novel microbial indicators, broadening the scope of their uses and driving breakthroughs in oral healthcare practices. Microbial biomarkers are set to play a critical role in improving preventative measures and encouraging improved oral health outcomes for persons globally as our understanding of the oral microbiome increases.

IMAGING BIOMARKERS²⁸

These biomarkers are based on cutting-edge imaging methods such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computed tomography (CT), and positron emission tomography (PET), and are critical for enhancing medical diagnosis and therapy. These sophisticated imaging biomarkers have shown great benefit in the identification and management of a wider range of systemic and oral disorders, including cancer and dental caries. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) creates comprehensive pictures of interior structures using intense magnetic fields and radio waves, allowing healthcare practitioners to acquire non-invasive insights into the body's tissues and organs. CT scans, on the other hand, construct cross-sectional pictures from a succession of X-ray images collected from different angles, offering a three-dimensional representation of the targeted area. MRI and CT scans, by providing extensive anatomical information, have become crucial instruments in diagnosing and characterising numerous disorders, including those affecting the oral cavity. Furthermore, positron emission tomography (PET) is a superior imaging technology that extends beyond structural data. PET scans make use of radioactive tracers that are preferentially absorbed by tissues with high metabolic activity. This allows for the visualisation of cellular-level alterations, which is particularly useful in identifying malignant cells or detecting inflammation in the oral area. The use of imaging biomarkers in medical practice has revolutionised the diagnosis and treatment landscape, allowing for early illness identification, appropriate staging, and precise disease monitoring. In the context of cancer, for example, these imaging techniques can help locate tumours, quantify their size, and measure therapy response. Similarly, imaging biomarkers play an important role in the early detection and assessment of dental caries, allowing for fast and focused therapies to prevent disease development. In conclusion, the use of imaging biomarkers such as MRI, CT, and PET is a cutting-edge strategy in modern medicine and dentistry. These tools enable healthcare providers to make more informed judgements, which lead to better patient outcomes, particularly in the diagnosis and management of systemic and oral disorders such as cancer and dental caries. As technology advances, the potential for imaging biomarkers to improve healthcare practices and patient care remains enormous.

THE IDENTIFICATION AND VALIDATION OF SALIVARY PROTEOMIC BIOMARKERS FOR EARLY DISEASE DETECTION INVOLVE SEVERAL STEPS DISCOVERY²⁹

During this critical stage of research, scientists use a variety of cutting-edge proteomic techniques, such as mass spectrometry and protein microarrays, to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the protein content present in saliva samples collected from people both affected and unaffected by a specific disease. The researchers want to identify and isolate prospective biomarkers that display different expression patterns, indicating their potential as indicators or predictors of the existence of a certain disease, by meticulously comparing the protein profiles of these two groups. The discovery of these discriminating biomarkers holds the key to furthering the area of oral health diagnostics, allowing for more accurate and early disease diagnosis, leading to more effective treatment techniques and better patient outcomes. Furthermore, such breakthroughs open the door for the development of personalised medicine techniques in dentistry, which customise therapies to individual patients based on their distinct biomarker profiles, ushering in a new age of focused and efficient oral healthcare interventions. The potential for innovative biomarker discovery and diagnostic discoveries in dentistry develops as proteomic technologies advance and refine, highlighting the crucial role that salivary proteomics may play in revolutionising oral health evaluation and patient care.

VALIDATION³⁰

Once possible biomarkers have been found, they must go through a vital validation step in bigger cohorts or complete clinical investigations. This critical phase demands the examination of saliva samples gathered from a larger and more diversified pool of people, including those at various stages of illness as well as healthy controls. Researchers may extensively analyse the specificity and sensitivity of these biomarkers inefficiently discriminating between illness cases and healthy persons using rigorous statistical analysis. This validation step is critical for assuring the reliability and accuracy of the found biomarkers before they can be reliably used in clinical practice or diagnostic applications. The rigorous validation of salivary biomarkers lays the path for their possible incorporation into regular oral health exams and disease monitoring, ultimately leading to better patient care and treatment results. Furthermore, validated salivary biomarkers may be useful in larger healthcare contexts, allowing for the early diagnosis and control of systemic illnesses with oral symptoms, boosting overall health and well-being.

VERIFICATION³¹

Further validation is a necessary and rigorous procedure that is carried out to confirm the performance and reliability of the found biomarkers across a diverse range of individuals or ethnicities. This critical phase in the research process is to demonstrate biomarker generalizability, ensuring that they hold true and produce consistent results in a variety of patient populations. Researchers can test the usefulness and accuracy of biomarkers in diverse genetic and environmental circumstances by exposing them to validation studies comprising individuals from various geographic locations and ethnic backgrounds. The validation procedure not only raises biomarkers' credibility, but also increases their potential for wider clinical use, making them more strong and trustworthy instruments for diagnostic, prognostic, or therapeutic reasons. Furthermore, such broad validation protects against any possible biases or restrictions that may result from a focused emphasis on certain groups, opening the way for personalised healthcare solutions that meet the demands of varied patient cohorts. Finally, comprehensive validation of biomarkers across varied populations is a critical step in the process of translating scientific discoveries into clinically useful tools that will improve global healthcare and medical practices.

FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS³²

Researchers may conduct more tests and studies to look into the potential functions of the found biomarkers in illness formation or progression in order to fully comprehend their biological relevance. This extensive examination might include a range of methodologies, such as investigating the underlying molecular processes via in-depth molecular analysis and route investigations. Researchers may also use functional assays to determine the precise impact of these biomarkers on various cellular processes and how they interact with the complicated networks that drive disease pathways. These additional experimental efforts will be critical in determining the functional importance of the discovered biomarkers and demonstrating their value as possible diagnostic, prognostic,

ortherapeutictargets. Researchershaved light ontheir modesofaction and the complicated ways theycontribute to the pathophysiologyoforal disorders by identifying the particular molecular interactions and cellular responses impacted by these biomarkers. Furthermore, such research can shed light on the potential value of these biomarkers in personalised treatment methods and the development of innovative therapeutic approaches. Researchers can assess the biological relevance of found biomarkers using a mix of molecular investigations, functional testing, and thorough data analysis. This research not only adds to our understandingoftheintricate mechanisms that underpin oral disorders, but it also lays the path for future advances in precision dentistry and personalised healthcare methods. Finally, these initiatives help to improve oral health outcomes, improve disease management, and promote a more targeted and effective approach to oral healthcare.

CLINICAL TRANSLATION³³

Once salivary proteomic biomarkers have been confirmed and their functional significance proven, major efforts are made to successfully transfer these results into clinical practise. This critical phase entails developing sensitive and precise diagnostic tests based on the discovered biomarkers, with the ultimate goal of smoothly deploying them in healthcare settings for illness diagnosis. The successful translation of salivary proteomic research into clinical applications has the potential to transform oral healthcare and beyond, providing non-invasive, fast, and cost-effective ways for identifying a variety of oral and systemic disorders. Furthermore, incorporating these cutting-edge diagnostic technologies into ordinary dentistry and medical practises might result in early interventions and more personalised treatment plans, dramatically improving patient results and overall health. Collaborations among academics, doctors, and healthcare providers are critical in this respect to bridge the gap between scientific findings and practical clinical applications, ensuring that the advantages of salivary proteomics reach patients globally. Furthermore, continued research and technological improvements will be important in refining and increasing the applicability of salivary proteomic biomarkers, opening the way for a future in which simple saliva-based diagnostics enable oral health monitoring and disease detection. As the area of salivary proteomics advances, it is critical to keep a strong focus on rigorous validation, standardisation, and ethical issues in order to assure the reliability, reproducibility, and responsible use of these diagnostic tools in the clinical environment. Overall, the incorporation of salivary proteomic biomarkers into clinical practise represents a promising frontier in dentistry and medicine, with the potential for transformative changes in the way oral and systemic diseases are diagnosed and managed, leading to improved public health outcomes and quality of life.

APPLICATIONS OF SALIVARY PROTEOMICS

Proteomic analysis applied to saliva is a promising route with enormous potential, not only for providing useful prognostic insights into the outcomes of various illnesses, but also for providing critical help in deciding suitable treatment approaches. By examining the precise makeup of proteins found in saliva, researchers can have access to a plethora of information useful in understanding illness onset and progression. This cutting-edge technology has the potential to transform medicine by ushering in a new era of personalised healthcare, in which customised medicines may be provided based on unique protein signatures detected in an individual's saliva. Furthermore, because saliva collection is non-invasive, it is an appealing and practical procedure that allows for easier and more regular monitoring of patients' health problems. The breadth and precision of prognostic information gained from salivary analysis are projected to reach new heights as proteomic methods expand and improve, ultimately contributing to better disease treatment and improved patient outcomes. It is evident that the topic of proteome analysis of saliva offers enormous promise and will continue to be a focus of significant research and inquiry in the future for its potential to alter the way we approach sickness prevention and treatment.

ORAL CANCER³⁴

Salivary proteome profiling has emerged as a possible avenue for assessing prognosis in oral cancer. Extensive study has revealed unique protein biomarkers in saliva that have the ability to predict crucial elements of the illness, including tumour growth, metastasis, and patient survival. In this discipline, remarkable advances have been made, with research revealing key insights that potentially revolutionise oral cancer prognosis and therapy. Hu et al.'s 2018 crucial work demonstrated the potential of salivary

proteomics in finding a panel of salivary proteins highly related with lymph node metastases in oral squamous cell cancer⁵. These findings raise the possibility of developing prognostic markers that might help in early discovery and fast management, eventually improving patient outcomes. Furthermore, Rao et al.'s 2021 study was critical in proving the practical applicability of salivary proteomics in predicting treatment responses and probable recurrences in oral cancer patients following chemotherapy³⁵. This study demonstrates the potential of salivary biomarkers as accurate indicators of therapy success and disease progression, directing doctors in the development of personalised and optimised treatment plans. The application of salivary proteomics in prognostic evaluations has enormous promise for improving the care of patients with oral cancer. Salivary proteome analysis has the potential to greatly improve patient care and contribute to better long-term outcomes by offering a non-invasive and accessible way of monitoring disease development, metastatic potential, and responsiveness to therapies. Further study and collaboration among interdisciplinary teams will be critical in verifying these findings and integrating them into clinical practice as the area of salivary proteomics in oral cancer prognosis evolves. The incorporation of this unique technique into regular oral cancer evaluation might become a reality with continuous discovery and validation of salivary protein biomarkers, ushering in a new age of precision medicine customised to the specific requirements of individual patients. With continued technological and analytical advances, salivary proteomics has the potential to become a vital weapon in the battle against oral cancer, eventually saving lives and increasing the quality of life for patients worldwide.

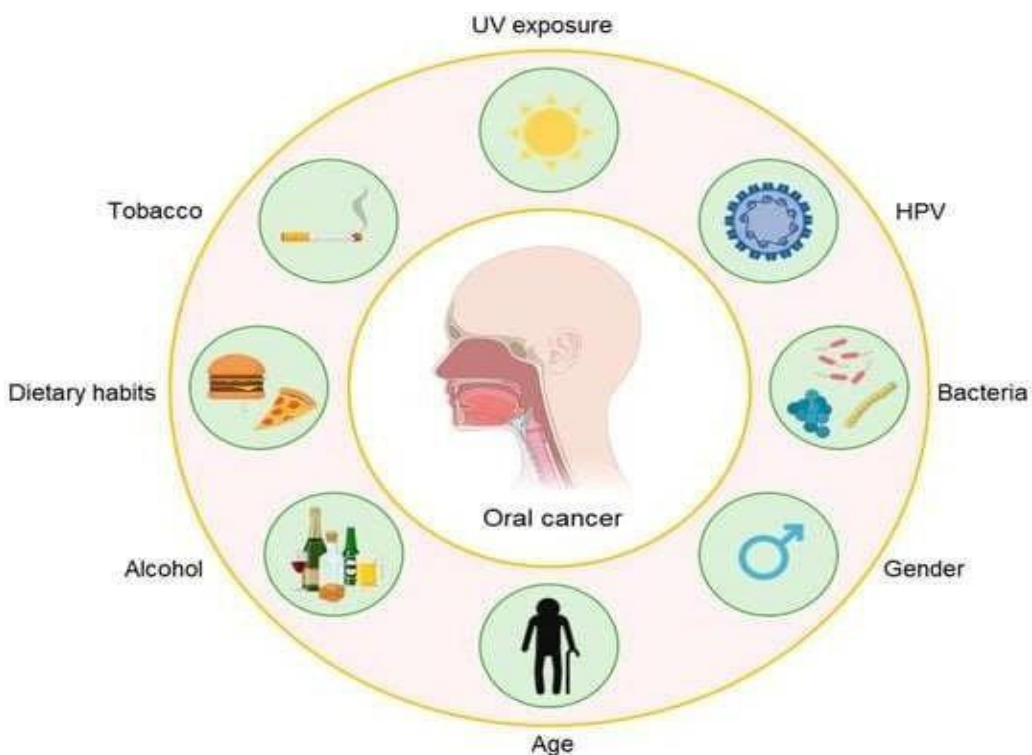


Figure 1. Oral cancer risk factors³⁶

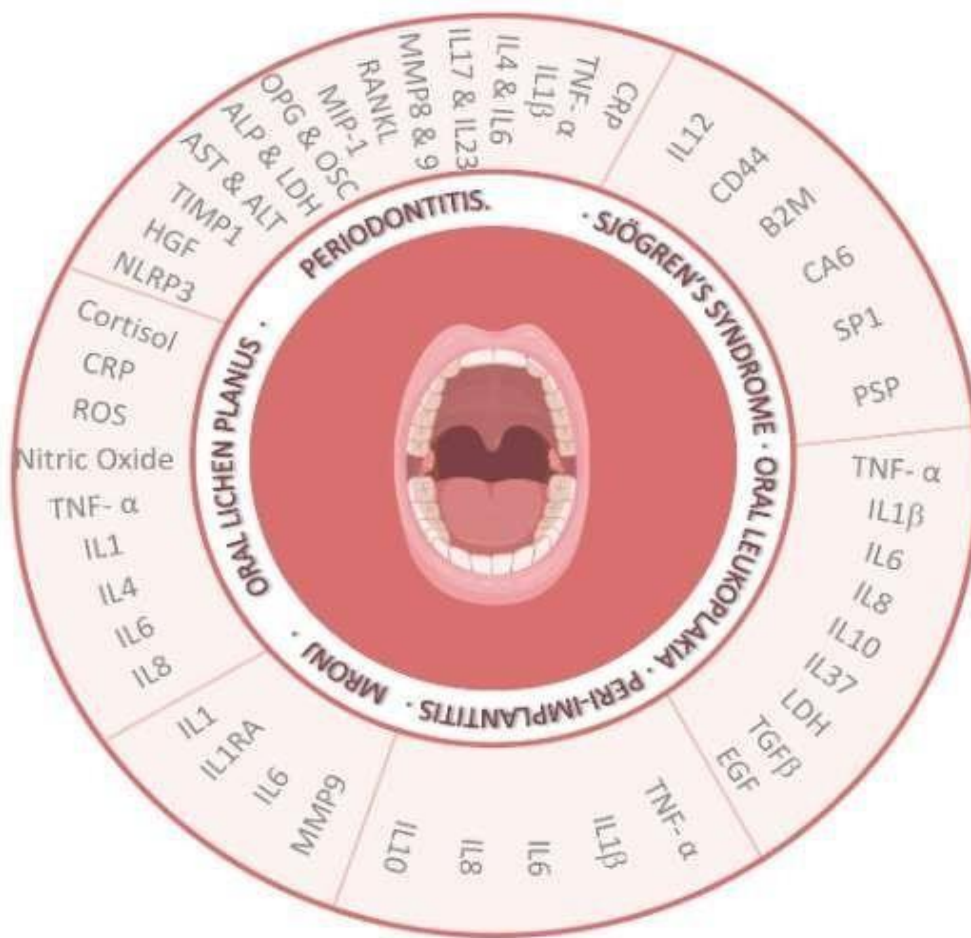
Oral squamous cell carcinoma (OSCC) accounts for almost 90% of all oral tumours^{37,38}. This aggressive type of epithelial neoplasia is characterised by squamous cells with various degrees of differentiation. Notably, it depicts the most prevalent sites of origin for oral cancer, which include the tongue, oral floor, and lower lip, as well as less common places such as the upper and lower gingiva, palate, and buccal mucosa^{39,40}. One of the most worrying elements of OSCC is its ability to infiltrate neighbouring tissues, such as muscles and bone, and even cause distant metastases. As a result of the highly lymphatic vascularization of the mouth cavity, cervical lymph node metastases are common⁴¹. This aggressive behaviour emphasises the importance of early identification and quick action in cases of oral squamous cell carcinoma in order to enhance patient outcomes and prognosis.

PERIODONTAL DISEASE⁴²

Salivary proteomics has emerged as a viable option for predicting periodontal disease severity and progression. Extensive research has connected particular salivary protein indicators to periodontitis inflammation, tissue degradation, and bone loss. For example, Gan et al.'s 2019 study effectively found possible salivary proteomic markers capable of discriminating between healthy and periodontitis patients¹. This discovery demonstrates the diagnostic potential of salivary proteomics in detecting early stages of illness and facilitating prompt intervention. Furthermore, salivary proteomics has the potential to provide personalised treatment methods for periodontal disease. Salazar et al. published a major study in 2020 that demonstrated the effectiveness of salivary proteomics in predicting individual responses to periodontal care. Clinicians might adjust treatment methods to each patient's specific needs by analysing salivary protein profiles, increasing the likelihood of good results and improving overall dental health. These findings highlight the enormous importance of salivary proteomics in periodontal disease treatment. Salivary proteomics offers a non-invasive and patient-friendly method to personalised dental care by offering useful insights on disease severity, development, and treatment response. Further study in this subject has the potential to revolutionise how periodontal diseases are detected, monitored, and treated, ultimately leading to better oral health outcomes for people all over the world.

SJÖGREN'S SYNDROME⁴³

Salivary proteomics has emerged as a viable option for diagnosing, prognosing, and monitoring Sjögren's syndrome, an autoimmune illness characterised by dry mouth and eyes. Salivary protein biomarkers that are closely connected with this illness have been found through research investigations, with a particular focus on autoantibodies and inflammation-related proteins. Huet et al. published a major study in 2018 that discovered distinct salivary proteomic markers that successfully discriminated Sjögren's disease patients from healthy persons⁵. Furthermore, pioneering work by Baldini et al. in 2019 highlighted the great potential of salivary proteomics in accurately forecasting disease development and, as a result, directing suitable treatment strategies for Sjögren's syndrome patients³. These astonishing findings highlight the importance of salivary proteomics as a non-invasive and effective technique for addressing the intricacies of Sjögren's syndrome and improving care of this difficult autoimmune condition. As further research is conducted, salivary proteomics has the potential to revolutionise the landscape of Sjögren's syndrome diagnosis and patient management, providing fresh hope and options for those suffering with this illness.



Gaps and Limitations Observed in The Existing Literature			
Topic	Key Findings	Gaps Identified	References
Salivary Proteomics	Salivary proteomics offers non-invasive	Lack of standardized protocols for biomarker	Hu, S., et al. (2008). Nature Reviews
Early Disease Detection	and easily accessible tools for disease detection.	identification and validation.	Cancer, 8(8), 604-615.
	Biomarkers such as cytokines, growth factors, and specific proteins have been identified.	Limited validation studies to confirm the diagnostic and prognostic value of identified biomarkers.	Zhang, L., et al. (2010). Clinical Proteomics, 6(1-2), 6-15.
	Salivary proteomic patterns show	inadequate large-scale cohort studies to establish	-Streckfus, C.F., et al. (2008). Critical

	potential for distinguishing between healthy and diseased individuals.	the robustness and reproducibility of identified biomarkers.	Reviews in Oral Biology & Medicine, 19(2),91-98.
Saliva-based Point-of-Care Diagnostic Devices	- Saliva-based diagnostic devices enable rapid and point-of-care testing.	-Lack of standardized methodologies and performance validation of saliva-based diagnostic devices.	-Wong,D.T.(2011). Expert Review of Molecular Diagnostics, 11(2), 159-168.
	-. These devices offer simplicity, portability, and cost-effectiveness	- Limited research on optimizing device design and sensitivity to enhance accuracy and reliability in clinical settings	Sanoj Rejinold, N., et al. (2018). Journal of Controlled Release, 269, 10-25.
	-. Further research is needed to validate their performance in diverse clinical scenarios.	-. Insufficient studies evaluating the clinical utility and impact of saliva-based point-of-care diagnostic devices on patient outcomes	Yeh, C. K., et al. (2016). Advanced Drug Delivery Reviews, 105(PtB), 83-94
Prognostic and Therapeutic Applications of Salivary Proteomics	-Salivary proteomics holds promise for prognosis and treatment guidance.	-Limited translation of identified biomarkers into targeted therapeutic strategies.	-Hu,S.,etal.(2018). Arthritis & Rheumatology, 70(11),1856-1870.
	- Identified biomarkers can predict disease and response to therapy.	- Insufficient studies evaluating the effectiveness and safety of targeted therapies based on salivary biomarkers.	-Baldini,C.,etal.(2019).Clinical and Experimental Rheumatology, 37(3 Suppl 118),3-12.

Biomarkers and Their Relevance	-Salivarybiomarkers show relevance in various oral diseases.	- Lack of standardized biomarker identification and validation protocols across different oral diseases.	-Li,Y.,etal.(2020). Analytical Methods, 12(19), 2522-2530.
	- Diagnostic and prognosticvalueof biomarkershasbeen demonstrated.	- Limited comparative studies assessing the overlapor uniquenessof salivary biomarkers	Rajkumar,K.,etal. (2020).JournalofOral and Maxillofacial
		across different oral diseases.	Pathology,24(2),343-349.
Potential	for therapeutic targeting based on salivary biomarkers	Lack of well-defined strategies for utilizing salivary biomarkers in targeted therapies.	Feller,L.,etal.(2018). Oral Diseases, 24(5), 709-730.
Consideration of the Potential for Therapeutic Targeting	Salivary biomarkers provide potential targetsfortherapeutic intervention.	Limited research on the development and evaluation of targeted therapeutic interventions based on salivary biomarkers.	Gursoy,U.K.,etal. (2018). Journal of Periodontology, 89(11), 1291-1300.
	Therapeutic targeting canmodifydisease processes identified by salivary biomarkers.	Insufficientlongitudinal studiemonitorthe dynamic changes in salivary biomarkers during treatment and evaluate therapeutic efficacy.	Silva,N.,etal.(2019). JournalofPeriodontal Research,54(2),135-147.

2. CONCLUSION

To summarise, salivary proteomics is a promising subject with applications in early illness detection, point-of-care diagnostics, prognostic evaluations, and targeted therapies. However, this critical evaluation identifies numerous gaps and problems that must be addressed before salivary biomarkers may be successfully integrated into ordinary clinical practise. First and foremost, defined techniques and criteria for biomarker discovery and validation are required. The lack of consistency in techniques makes it difficult to compare and validate findings across investigations. Standardised procedures would improve the dependability and reproducibility of salivary biomarker studies. Furthermore, additional validation studies are required to establish the diagnostic and prognostic significance of the found salivary biomarkers. To prove the robustness and therapeutic value of these

biomarkers, large-scale cohort studies with different populations and standardised procedures are necessary. It is also critical to investigate the possibilities for therapeutic targeting based on salivary biomarkers. For successful illness management, well defined methodologies for using salivary biomarkers in targeted treatments, as well as the creation and assessment of personalised treatment regimens, are required. Longitudinal studies are also required to track the dynamic changes in salivary biomarkers over time and their relationship to disease progression and treatment response. Non-invasive and dependable techniques of monitoring salivary biomarkers during therapy would allow for prompt changes and assessment of therapeutic effectiveness. Finally, comparison studies are needed to determine if salivary biomarkers overlap or are unique to distinct oral illnesses. Such research would provide light on disease causes and aid in the development of common diagnostic and treatment methods. Addressing these shortcomings through collaboration among academics, clinicians, and industry stakeholders would improve the clinical value of salivary proteomics and accelerate the translation of salivary biomarkers into ordinary clinical practise. These breakthroughs have the potential to transform disease diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment tactics, ultimately leading to better patient outcomes in oral healthcare and beyond.

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