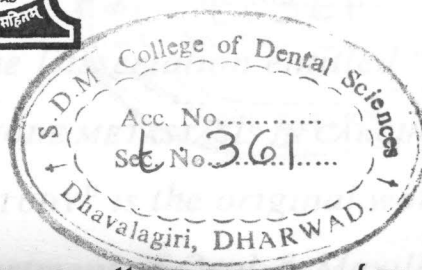


TUMOR VOLUME AS A PREDICTOR OF LYMPH NODE METASTASIS IN CARCINOMA OF BUCCAL MUCOSA - A PROSPECTIVE STUDY



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In 1988, the AJCC and UICC reached an agreement for a common TNM and stage classification, which is extensively used to choose treatment, assess prognosis and compare the results of treatment for cancers. The T stage of an oral and oropharyngeal tumor is assessed from its maximal diameter, which fails to define the true three-dimensional volume of the primary tumor. So, the T category is subjected to various criticisms. There are some latest methods for evaluating the extent of oral carcinoma, such as computed tomography, MRI, and intra-oral ultra sonography which can, not only delineate the extent of tumors but also to measure the tumor thickness which is important prognostic factor for oral cancer and it should be always measured as accurately as possible²⁶.

In India, Advanced Head and Neck cancer is an extremely common (>30% of all cancers) serious problem. Poverty, illiteracy and ignorance account not only for the large volume of advanced disease, but also for inadequate treatment compliance and huge losses to follow up. Our