

# **Therapeutic effects of combined intraarterial chemotherapy and radiation therapy in oral cancer**

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## **Abstract**

Advances in oral cancer treatment have improved local control and survival, and more recently, conservation of oral functions, such as phonation, mastication and swallowing, and aesthetics have become more important. Surgery and radiation therapy have been the mainstay of treatments for oral cancer, and chemotherapy has been utilized primarily as an adjuvant therapy. However, more effective drugs for treating squamous cell carcinoma have been developed, and multidisciplinary therapy that includes chemotherapy is now more commonly performed. In our department, combined intraarterial chemotherapy and radiation therapy have been performed for some time to treat oral cancer in efforts to conserve function and morphology. Nonetheless, therapeutic assessment of this treatment is difficult, and to complicate matters, many oral cancer patients undergo surgery. We have been using  $^{18}\text{F}$ FDG-PET to assess the therapeutic effects of combined therapy, and here we discuss the results.