

The (CD44) biomarker is considered as one candidate molecular marker for detection of head and neck squamous cell carcinoma, it is listed as adhesion molecules. This protein has many functions and is considered as a multi-structural cell surface protein which is involved in different pathological events. The over-expression of CD44 was detected in different cancers in humans, including oral squamous cell carcinoma (OSCC). Therefore, this study was designed to evaluate the role of CD44 in OSCC, quantified in stimulated saliva, besides its correlation with smoking. This case-control study consisted of 30 patients with oral squamous cell carcinoma who were smokers, and other 60 control persons for comparison: 30 subjects of them were smoking and others were free of smoking. CD44 was assessed by ELISA technique, in stimulated saliva collected from all groups. The result of this study shows that salivary CD44 protein level is significantly higher in smoker patients with oral squamous cell carcinoma in comparison to smoker and non-smoker control healthy persons, thus the CD44 protein has an important role, as a non-invasive way, in the early diagnosis and monitoring of oral squamous cell carcinoma patients.