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***Mapping the genomic profile of oral cavity cancer
Kortlægning af mundhulekræfts genetiske profil***

In 2011 in Denmark there were diagnosed 377 new cases of oral cavity cancer, an increase of 27 % compared to 2002. Although there have been advances in surgical procedures, the prognosis is still poor. The overall 5-year survival-rate for oral cavity cancer is about 40 %. Surgery is usually the primary treatment, however depending on cancer stage; use of concomitant radiotherapy can be implied.

In everyday clinical work there is a lack of tools for providing more accurate prognosis; there is a need for biomarkers that can characterize the diversity of oral cavity cancer. We cannot with our current knowledge assess if the patients cancer is aggressive or mild. Chemotherapy is being introduced as a part in an aggressive treatment of oral cavity cancer in concordance with radiotherapy, but it requires the patients to be physically and mentally strong. Therefore biomarkers could be a tool to assess which patients would benefit from a more aggressive approach, thus restricting the treatment to candidate patients. Some of these biomarkers could perhaps in the future point to targets for use in targeted and personalized medicine.