Say Ahhh for Early Oral Cancer Detection

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Molecules in saliva may aid in early oral cancer detection, suggest findings of a study published by *Clinical Cancer Research* and reported by HealthDay.

Researchers measured microRNA levels—molecules that control activity and assess multiple gene behavior––in the saliva of 100 people (50 with oral cancer and 50 cancer-free participants). In the cancer patients' saliva, researchers found significantly lower levels of two molecules (miR-125a and miR 200a) of at least 50 microRNAs associated with oral cancer.

"The oral cavity is a mirror to systemic health, and many diseases that develop in other parts of the body have an oral manifestation," said David T. Wong, DMD, DMsc, a professor at the University of California at Los Angeles School of Dentistry and the study's author.

Wong stressed, however, that the study's finding must be confirmed by a more comprehensive analysis.

"It is a holy grail of cancer detection to be able to measure the presence of a cancer without a biopsy, so it is very appealing to think that we could detect a cancer-specific marker in a patient's saliva," commented Jennifer Grandis, MD, a senior editor of the journal and a professor of otolaryngology and pharmacology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and Cancer Institute.

Find out how your morning cup of joe could prevent oral cancer here.

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http://beta.docker.realhealthmag.com/article/saliva-oralcancer-microRNAs-17199-3024