

## **Abstract**

### **BACKGROUND:**

Most human immunodeficiency virus positive patients now have a longer life expectancy, with the advent of highly active antiretroviral therapy. However, they are now at increased risk of developing a malignancy during their lives.

### **AIM:**

To investigate the age at which oral squamous cell carcinoma presents in patients infected with human immunodeficiency virus.

### **STUDY DESIGN:**

Prospective, clinicohistopathological audit of patients infected with human immunodeficiency virus.

### **RESULTS:**

Of 200 human immunodeficiency virus positive patients, 16 (8 per cent) presented with oral squamous cell carcinoma (nine women and seven men; age range 18-43 years, mean age 31.7 years). The majority of patients (62.5 per cent) had stage III and IV disease (tumour-node-metastasis staging). There was a predilection for poorly differentiated oral squamous cell carcinoma (using Broder's histopathological classification).

### **CONCLUSION:**

Oral squamous cell carcinoma associated with human immunodeficiency virus infection appears to present at a relatively young age.