

Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma (HNSCC) database

By Dr Bilqeesa Bhat

A team of researchers led by Dr Anshuman Dixit designed a Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma Database (HNSCC DB) to serve the purpose of providing information on transcriptomics, sequence, and structure related to genes implicated in HNSCC. The database can be searched using gene- and protein family names.

Team has attempted to collect all the relevant information from disparate sources and attempted to build a systematically structured database that can be useful for biologists, clinicians, medicinal chemists, and related health professionals. There was no unified database available on the HNSCC to give comprehensive information about involvement of genes, proteins, diagnosis and prognosis, and targeted therapies, etc.

The head and neck cancers are among the ten most common cancers globally. It includes approximately 90% of oral cancers and accounts for more than 300,000 newly diagnosed cancers every year. In India, 80000 new cases are reported every year which is the highest for any single cancer. Smoking, alcohol, *pan*, *gutkha* and tobacco chewing are the leading causes of the HNSCC.

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