The localisation and direction of oral cavity and oropharyngeal cancer spread based on the material of Head and Neck Oncological Surgery Department University of Medical Sciences in Poznań

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Summary
The directions of tumor spread are determined by the anatomy of the affected organ. The vessel, nerve anatomy and presence of structures, that may potentially constitute a barrier for spread out of the tumor are of crucial importance. The aim of this paper was to presentation of the spreading directions of oral cavity and oropharyngeal squamous cell cancer based on the own experience. Material include 163 patients surgically treated between 2003-2003 in Department of ENT, Head and Neck Oncological Surgery Department in Poznań. The examination was conducted on the base of retrospective analysis of ambulatory charts and the hospital files. Results: 163 (90%) patients were operated for primary oral and oropharyngeal cancer. The primary localization included in the palatine tonsil (82 patients), trunk of the tongue (48 patients) and floor of the mouth (20 patients) were predominated. The spread directions included: floor of the mouth (36) soft palate (35), base of tongue (33), hypopharynx (20) and trunk of tongue (16). The 31 crossed the midline, 27 infiltrated the tonsillopalatine angle, 9 retromolar area and 3 the mucosa of the cheek. Knowledge of anatomy facil-ty in clinically evaluation of spreading malignancy. It helps in proper qualification to surgery or radiotherapy.