

Oral Sex and Cancer

Dr. Abdul Hamid Al-Qudah

B.Sc, M.Sc, M.Phil, Dp.Bact, Ph.D (U.K.)

Expert in sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS

Executive Director "Youth Protection project From STI`s"

Federation of Islamic Medical Associations

In collaboration with

Mr. Mahmoud Shareedeh

Epidemiology and public health

and

Dr. Zaki Albashaireh

Islamic Studies

Oral Sex and Cancer

Abstract:

The wide spread of sexual madness, along with the strong sexual desires in youths, and their search for unusual instantaneous sexual pleasures (such as oral sex) led to the vast spread of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) and AIDS as well as the emergence of a new series of cancers in mouth, tongue, tonsils, throat and lips. As the world has become a small village, overflowed with immoral, customs, habits and new fashions, such practices found its way to our conservative communities, and began to spread rapidly among our young people, especially in light of the indecisive legitimate rule of oral sex, which varied from permissible to frowned upon and forbidden.

The terrifying and frightening scientific findings, through experimental studies in various parts of the world, especially in the West, connects such cancers with oral sex. Thus, we are obliged, as specialists, to discuss this issue from a scientific and medical point view, and present the facts to Muslim clerks; to provide them with more clarity, before issuing their fatwas in this regard.

Oral Sex and Cancer

Introduction

Oral sex is a sexual activity, practiced by mouth to stimulate the genitals of the other party using the mouth or the tongue leading to orgasm. This kind of sexual practice is spreading in the world in an unprecedented way. Perhaps, the sexual madness along with the search for new sexual styles helped the emergence and prevalence of such practices in search for more excitements, as well as the faulty impression that it is safer; Unfortunately, the emergence and spread of oral sex was accompanied with new patterns of tumors and cancers (such as: cancer of the throat, mouth, lips and tongue...etc), in addition, it is well proved that oral sex transmits numerous sexual diseases, eg: AIDS, genital warts, syphilis, gonorrhea, herpes, and a number of intestinal diseases⁽²⁹⁾.

The main reasons for us to conduct this study for the Arabic and Islamic communities are:

1. The large number of young people's interest in this subject, and the increasing inquiries about it, both in the Arab and Islamic countries, or their communities in Western countries.
2. Evidence of the role of oral sex in the creation of many types of cancers in the mouth, throat, lips, tongue and tonsils. It also transmits AIDS, syphilis, gonorrhea, herpes and genital warts.
3. The complaints of many Muslim wives from their husbands" who like these practices" and possibly wives being forced to do so. This means silent widespread of this practice among Muslim couples.

4. The presence of the silent potentially dangerous viruses which are associated with mouth's cancers, from other sources and due to non-sexual ways; makes the practice of oral sex, even with wife more dangerous.

Oral Sex and Oral Cancers

In addition to the wide range of sexually transmitted diseases, which oral sex helps in spreading, there are many types of new oral cancers emerged and spread drastically. These diseases are caused by the human papilloma virus (HPV) and of which there are more than a hundred offspring⁽¹⁾, transmitted mostly by peculiar sexual practices, especially oral sex, forty percent of which cause diseases to humans⁽²⁾. Primitive ones cause genital warts^(3,4), and the most dangerous ones cause various cancers, mostly in the mouth, cervix and throat⁽⁵⁾.

Oral cancer is in fact a group of cancers, affecting different areas of the mouth including: lips, base of the tongue, the highest throat, tonsils, and throat⁽⁶⁾. Recent studies revealed a disturbing and unjustified rise of these diseases⁽²⁶⁾, among young age groups^(7,8,9,10), despite the decrease in the usual risk factors^(10,11). Although these studies have been conducted in different countries (such as Britain, America and Sweden), they reached the same results, and revealed similar patterns of prevalence and risk factors^(10,12,26). In the Arab and Islamic countries, no studies have been conducted in this regard.

The wide spread of the causative virus (HPV)

The infections with this virus, with all its types, are widely spread all over the world. It is transmitted by oral and genital sex^(3,9). American studies indicate that HPV is the most prevalent in the United States, and that 80% of Americans are exposed to this infection at some point in their lives^(1,13,14,15). Moreover, recent studies say that 20 million Americans are infected with one of high-risk viruses (HPV-16 that causes cancer), and 5.5 million new infections are reported annually⁽¹⁴⁾. Studies have revealed in Britain about the same prevalence rates⁽³⁾, 8 out of 10 persons are infected with the virus during their lifetime, and it is more prevalent among young people⁽⁴⁾. The American Medical Association journal published a study in 2012 reported that 16 million Americans have been infected with HPV through oral sex⁽⁹⁾.

Western countries announced that they can't do much to fight the spread of this virus; as it is often that the infected cases do not show any signs or symptoms^(1,13,14,15). There is no cure for the virus at the moment; it resides in the body for several years. All that can be done is to deal with the health problems that result from the infection after they appear⁽¹⁵⁾. The human can be infected more than once, the existence of more than 100 types of this virus means that any infection with one type does not prevent the infection by the other types⁽⁴⁾. The virus infection is localized, where the virus infects the epithelial cells that cover the surface of the inner and outer body (most of its presence in the sensitive areas)^(4,15).

Transmission of HPV virus

It is proven that the HPV virus is transmitted mainly by sexual intercourse^(3,5); however, it can also be transmitted through other ways⁽¹⁶⁾. For example, it is transmitted by direct mouth's skin to skin contact (i.e., open mouth kiss), or through oral sex^(4,5,6). It is reported in some promiscuous communities that virgin females, who are engaged with oral sex activities, are infected with HPV virus. Even more, it is reported that foreplay with sexual genitals (masturbation) may cause the transmission of HPV virus since the skin under the finger nails may contain the virus through contamination and hence transmit it to the genitals⁽¹⁾.

In spite of the recommendations of some specialists in the West (promiscuous communities) to limit sexual activities to just one uninfected partner (which theoretically corresponds to the legal relationship of marriage in our Islamic societies) to combat the spread of the virus^(13,15), however, a study conducted at the University of Washington showed that half of the women who had sex with only one partner; attained the virus after 3 years of the relationship⁽¹³⁾. It has been observed recently that the increase in the prevalence of the virus in the mouth area coincided with the spread of oral sex⁽¹¹⁾.

HPV and Oral Cancers

In recent years, researchers established the relationship between HPV virus to cancers that affect the mouth, which include cancer of the lips, tongue, gums, tonsils, and parts of the throat. There are about 15 serotypes of this virus that can cause cancers, which continued to increase in the past 30 years. In 2009, it was announced that oral cancer is one of the most common head and neck cancers in Britain, caused by infection with HPV⁽⁶⁾ transmitted mainly by oral sex^(11,26).

Similar findings are reported in the United States; where the change in the sexual behaviors led to significant rise in tonsils and tongue cancers, the most increase was incurred among young people and is estimated about 500%⁽¹⁶⁾. In spite of the evident advancements in treatment of cancers, however, HPV related cancers kills eight thousand Americans each year. The National Cancer Institute announced that 75% of oral and pharyngeal cancers are caused by oral sex, and it is 7 times higher among men than women⁽¹⁶⁾.

The American Association for Cancer Research launched a warning in its annual conference in 2009 from the sharp rise in the number of people with throat cancer; due to changes in sexual practices that transmit the virus to the mouth⁽²⁶⁾. A pronounced doctor in the Assembly (Otis Brawley) declared that infected people are not from the traditional group of patients (elderly and smokers), but they are young, and from different segments of the society⁽²⁵⁾.

These cancers may be formed within two years from the date of infection, but most often appears after 10-12 years and in some cases after 20 years^(9,15). The huge increase in mouth cancer,

caused by HPV virus, and spread among young people at alarming rates; is a natural consequence to the catastrophic increase in oral sex. Experts believe that these practices will cause cancers of the throat in men more than caused by smoking⁽¹⁷⁾.

Once the papilloma virus (HPV) penetrates the epithelial cells; the virus begins to produce materials lead to uncontrolled cell growth; and therefore develop a mutation that stimulates more cell growth and finally a tumor. This process may take a long time from 10 to 20 years from the date of infection^(5,18). Studies indicate that a repeated HPV infection, in its various serotypes, increases the risk of cancer of the throat by 32 times more than those who were never infected, and that those infected with the (HPV-16) virus are 58 times more exposed to throat cancer. We note that smokers and alcoholics are only exposed 3 times more than non-smokers or non- alcoholics to the disease⁽²⁴⁾.

An American study warned that the virus (HPV) has surpassed tobacco as the leading cause of cancer in both south and north Americas under the age of fifty. The scientists have warned that a change in sexual practices has led to a sharp rise in the number of people with cancer of the larynx, amid fears of an outbreak of the disease pandemic⁽²⁸⁾. These warnings have not received adequate attention, especially from the media. The famous actor Michael Douglas announced that the reason for his throat cancer is due to his practice of oral sex^(9,19).

The range of the spread of oral cancers

Cancers caused by the HPV virus are growing globally. Based on the statistics done in 2004¹, the rates of throat cancers associated with HPV virus has increased by 225% over the last sixteen years⁽¹⁾, and they are seven times more in men than in women⁽¹⁶⁾. Mouth's cancers due to oral sex are ranked the seventh among the most common cancers in men in the United States⁽¹⁾. Moreover, British experts reported an alarming increase in cancers of the mouth and neck rates among youth^(10,26). For the first time in UK, the number of cases of oral cancer exceeds 6 thousand cases a year⁽¹⁰⁾. In Sweden, similar increases in the incidences of tonsils' cancers are reported⁽¹²⁾.

The statistical comparative study conducted between 1984 and 2004 showed that cancers caused by HPV virus rose from 16.2 % to 71.1 %^(20,28). Preliminary studies for 2014 indicating an increase of 90% in the tongue cancer caused by oral sex⁽⁵⁾.

Islamic ruling for oral sex⁽²¹⁾

The ruling regarding the oral sex issue varied among the Islamic scholars, and their ruling ranged from approval to prohibition of such practices. Among the most famous who have approved the practice is Dr. Mohammed Said Ramadan al-Bouti, where he stated that it is allowed for couples to enjoy each other, in any way, excluding the cases explicitly prohibited in the Quran: menstrual and anal

¹ The survey used to be conducted every 10 years, in the middle of the year, so the next survey for 2014 does not published yet.

intercourses, and what proved to be harmful by the testimony of specialists. Dr. Ali jomaa issued a permissible fatwa of such practice, considering such practices as submission as stated in the verse: (Your wives are as a tilth unto you: so approach your tilth when or how you will; but do some good act for your souls beforehand)^(Holy Quran: 2,223), or such as the Prophet stated in the hadith: "Do not fall upon (sexually) your wife as a beast, let be a messenger between yourselves" ^(by Al-Dailami).

Dr. Yusuf Al-Gardawi made the intentions of the couple decides whether it is permissible or forbidden. So it is permissible to kiss others gentiles for foreplay. On the other hand, it is disliked if the intention is to ejaculate. Dr. Qardawi did not prohibit oral sex as there is no explicit prohibition on the Quran on one hand, and human's gentiles are not considered filthy as anus on the other hand. A third reason for not forbidding this practice is "to be with the consent of wife and her pleasure" citing the Almighty said: (Who abstain from sex; Except with those joined to them in the marriage bond, or (the captives) whom their right hands possess, for (in their case) they are free from blame, But those whose desires exceed those limits are transgressors) ^(Holy Quran: 23,5-7).

Others issued fatwas of forbidding this act such as Dr. Mohamed Sayed Dessouki, as it spoils the human's intuitions, and sabotage human's reproduction, and cause many diseases. Sheikh Saleh al-Luhaidan, and Dr. Abdullah al-Faqih (although he did not issue terminal prohibition) issued fatwas to forbid this action as it may cause impurity.

Thus, there is a clear and great contrast in fatwas of this emerging issue. All of these opinions were released before such damaging consequences and cancers emerged and proved by scientists (as detailed in this paper). It is here we see the need for further research in this matter and reconsider the whole issue by the ones who already made fatwa or by the ones who did not, on the above mentioned scientific basis.

References

1. HARRIS, GARDINER. *Can Oral Sex Cause Cancer?* MEN'S JOURNAL. [Online] Mar 2012. <http://www.mensjournal.com/magazine/can-oral-sex-cause-cancer-20120809>.
2. Hariri , S, et al. *Prevalence of genital human papillomavirus among females in the United States, the National Health And Nutrition Examination Survey, 2003-2006.* *The Journal of Infectious Disease.* Aug 15, 2011, pp. 566-73.
3. *Cancer Research UK. Risks and causes of penile cancer.* [Online] MARCH 5, 2014. <http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/cancer-help/type/penile-cancer/about/risks-and-causes-of-penile-cancer>.
4. —. *What is the HPV virus?* *Cancer Research UK.* [Online] 3 2014. <http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/cancer-help/about-cancer/cancer-questions/what-is-the-hpv-virus>.
5. —. *Definite risks for mouth and oropharyngeal cancer.* [Online] 3 2014. <http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/cancer-help/type/mouth-cancer/about/risks/definite-risks-for-mouth-and-oropharyngeal-cancer>.
6. *CANCER RESEARCH UK. BBC Three documentary on oral sex and cancer.* *CANCER RESEARCH UK.* [Online] 1 2011. <http://scienceblog.cancerresearchuk.org/2011/01/10/bbc-three-documentary-on-oral-sex-and-cancer/>.
7. Canto, MT and Devesa , SS. *Oral cavity and pharynx cancer incidence rates in the United States, 1975-1998.* *Oral Oncol.* 2002, pp. 610-617.
8. Schantz, SP and Yu , GP. *Head and neck cancer incidence trends in young Americans, 1973-1997, with a special analysis for tongue cancer.* *Arch Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg.* 2002, pp. 268-274.
9. *Oral sex and throat cancer: Michael Douglas HPV report spotlights "epidemic".* JASLOW, RYAN. June 3, 2013, CBS NEWS.
10. Didymus, JohnThomas. *Rise in mouth cancer cases due to increase in oral sex.* *DIGITAL JOURNAL.* MARCH 16, 2012.
11. Anil K. Chaturvedi, Eric A. Engels, William F. Anderson, and Maura L. Gillison. *Incidence Trends for Human Papillomavirus–Related and – Unrelated Oral Squamous Cell Carcinomas in the United States.* *JOURNAL OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY.* FEBRUARY 1, 2008, pp. 612-619.

12. Hammarstedt , L, Lindquist, D and Dahlstrand , H. Human papillomavirus as a risk factor for the increase in incidence of tonsillar cancer. *International Journal of Cancer*. 2006, pp. 2620-2623.
13. MEN'S JOURNAL. The Man's Guide to HPV. MEN'S JOURNAL. [Online] 2014. <http://oralcancernews.org/wp/the-mans-guide-to-hpv/>.
14. Stanford University. HPV 16. Stanford University. [Online] 2004. http://www.stanford.edu/group/virus/papilloma/2004goglincarnevale/Papilloma/HPV16.htm#_Incubation.
15. National Cancer Institute. HPV and Cancer. National Cancer Institute. [Online] 3 15, 2012. <http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/factsheet/Risk/HPV>.
16. Can I Get Cancer From Oral Sex. CENTER FOR HEAD & NECK CANCER. Mount Sinai Hospital. [Online] 2014. <http://www.mountsinai.org/patient-care/service-areas/ent/areas-of-care/head-and-neck-cancer/oral-cancer/hpv/infographics/hpv-oral-sex-cancer>.
17. Keating, Fiona. Increase in Mouth Cancer Caused by 'Catastrophic Rise' in Oral Sex. October 19, 2013.
18. American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology. Colposcopy: Colposcopic Appearance of High-Grade Lesions. January 4, 2012.

È Á Á Æ Æ Panorama, Æ Á Á Á Æ Á Á È
 http://ellnas.com/È È È ð ð ð

20. Chaturvedi , AK, Engels , EA and Pfeiffer , RM. Human papillomavirus and rising oropharyngeal cancer incidence in the United States. *Journal of Clinical Oncology*. 2011, pp. 4294–4301.

È Æ Á Æ Á Æ Á È

22. Blot, WJ, Devesa , SS and McLaughlin, JK. Oral and pharyngeal cancers. *Cancer Surv*. 1994, pp. 23-42.

23. Gypsyamber D'Souza, Ph.D., & Others. Case–Control Study of Human Papillomavirus and Oropharyngeal Cancer. *THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE*. May 10, 2007, 356, pp. 1944-1956.

24. Oral sex can cause throat cancer. Khamssi, Roxanne. May 09 , 2007, *NewScientist*.

Á Á Æ Æ CNN Æ Á Á Á Á Á Á Á Á Æ CNN È
 È

http://archive.arabic.cnn.com/ /scitech/ ð/ORAL.cancer_hpv/index.htmlÈ

È Á Á Ñ CNN Æ Á Á Á Á Á Á Á Á Æ È
<http://archive.arabic.cnn.com/scitech/Đ/bmj.hpv/index.html>

È Á Ñ CNN Æ Á Á Æ Á Æ Æ È
<http://archive.arabic.cnn.com/scitech/Đ/HPV.oral/index.html>

È Ñ CNN Æ Á Á Æ È È

Á
http://archive.arabic.cnn.com/scitech/Đ/yes.oral.sex.can_lead_to_cancer/index.html

Á Á Á Á Æ Æ Á Á Á Æ Á Á È