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| **Supplementary file Table 2: Comparison of α-SMA with demographic and clinicopathologic characteristics of OSCC** |
| **SL NO** | **Category** | **α-SMA low expression** | **α-SMA high expression**  | **P Value** |
| 1 | Age  |  > 60 yrs | 46.6% (n=14)  | 53.4% (n=16)  | 0.413 |
| <60 yrs  | 35 % (n=7)  | 65% (n=13)  |
| 2 | Gender  | Male  | 39.3% (n=13)  | 60.6% (n=20 )  | 0.603 |
| Female  |  47.0% (n=8) | 53%(n=9) |
| 3 | Positive family history of OSCC | Yes  |  0%(n=0) | 100 %(n=1) | 0.390 |
| No  | %(n=21) | %(n=28) |
| 4 | Positive family history of cancer  | Yes  | 0 %(n=0) | 100 %(n=3) | 0.128 |
| No  | 56.7%(n=21) | 43.2%(n=26) |
| 5 | Tobacco habit  | Yes  | 39.5%(n=17) | 60.4%(n=26) | 0.381 |
| No  | 57.1%(n=4) | 42.8%(n=3) |
| 6 | Drinking habit | Yes  | 29.1%(n=7) | 70.8%(n=17) | 0.077 |
| No  | 53.8%(n=14) | 46.1%(n=12) |
| 7 | Systemic conditions  | Yes  | 39.5%(n=17) | 60.4%(n=26) | 0.381 |
| No  | 57.1%(n=4) | 42.8%(n=3) |
| 8 | Dietary habits  | Veg  | 0%(n=0) | 100%(n=1) | 0.390 |
| Non veg  | 42.8%(n=21) | 57.1%(n=28) |
| 9 | Site of lesion  | Buccal mucosa  | 43.75%(n=7) | 56.25%(n=9) | 0.548 |
| Tongue  | 52.9%(n=9) | 47.05%(n=8) |
| Floor of mouth  | 0%(n=0) | 100%(n=2) |
| Palate | 66.6%(n=2) | 33.3%(n=1) |
| Alveolar mucosa/gingiva | 28.5%(n=2) | 71.4%(n=5) |
| Retromolar region  | 25%(n=1) | 75%(n=3) |
| 10 | Size of lesion | Less than or equal to 2cm  | 44.4%(n=8) | 55.5%(n=10) | 0.797 |
| > 2 to < 4/ equal  | 37.5%(n=9) | 62.5%(n=15) |
| > 4 cm  | 50%(n=4) | 50%(n=4) |
| 11 | lymph node involvement  | Yes  | 48%(n=12) | 52%(n=13) | 0.390 |
| No  | 36%(n=9) | 64%(n=16) |
| 12 | Type of lesion | Ulcer  | 27.2%(n=3) | 72.7%(n=8) | 0.527 |
| Ulceroproliferative  | 45.7%(n=16) | 54.2%(n=19) |
| White/red patch  | 100%(n=0) | 100%(n=0) |
| Swelling | 100%(n=0) | 100%(n=0) |
| 14 | Presence of Necrosis | Yes  | 30.8% (n=4) | 69.2% (n=9) | 0.340 |
| No  | 45.9% (n=17) | 54.1% (n=20) |
| 15 | Inflammation | Mild  | 100% (n=1) | 0% (n=0) | 0.087 |
| Moderate  | 25% (n=5) | 75% (n=15) |
| Severe  | 51.7% (n=15) | 48.3% (n=14) |
| 16 | Invasion of adjacent structures  | Yes  | 80% (n=56) | 20 % (n=14) | 0.002 |
| No  | 50% (n=15) | 50% (n=15) |
| 17 | Tumor budding | Low  | 38.9% (n=7) | 61.1% (n=11) | 0.738 |
| High  | 43.8% (n=14) | 56.3% (n=18) |
|  | (\* Chi-square test, P value<0.05)  |