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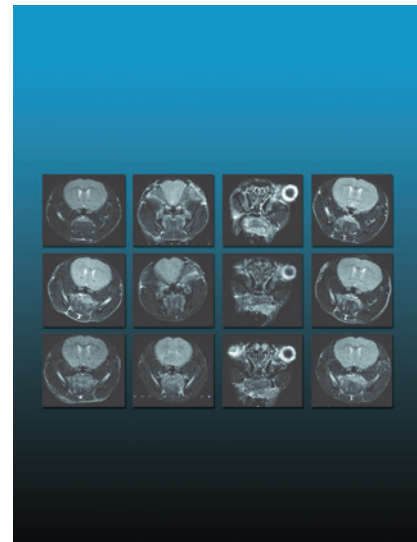
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ABOUT THE COVER

Oral squamous cell carcinomas (OSCC) are locoregionally aggressive tumors that result in debilitating functional and esthetic sequelae in patients. The high rate of recurrence and the formation of second primary tumors have been attributed to a number of factors including field cancerization. This unique disease biology makes OSCC an ideal target for preventive intervention. In this study, preclinical trials were conducted to examine the potential of 1,25-dihydroxy vitamin D₃ as a bioadjuvant to enhance the chemopreventive efficacy of the EGFR inhibitor, erlotinib. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) in combination with histologic and molecular analyses was performed to examine the safety and efficacy of this combination strategy in the 4NQO model of oral cancer. Noninvasive MRI enabled longitudinal monitoring of oral carcinogenesis *in vivo*. The panel of images on the cover represents axial T2-weighted MR images of a mouse from all experimental groups (columns) over time (rows). The combination regimen showed reduced incidence of OSCC and reduction in tumor growth over time. The ease of administration of 1,25(OH)₂D₃ along with its diverse biologic effects strongly supports its usefulness as a chemopreventive bioadjuvant against oral cancer. See the article by Bothwell *et al.* (beginning on page 765) for more information.



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