

Supplementary Table S1. Frequency distribution of demographic and risk factors

		Studied patients		Subgroup analysed for TERT expression	
		<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Total number		139		90	
Age	Years (IQR)	66 (58-74)		65 (57-72)	
Gender	Male	103	74.1	71	78.9
	Female	36	25.9	19	21.1
Smoking status	Ever	103	74.1	69	76.7
	Never	36	25.9	21	23.3
Alcohol drinking status	Ever	112	80.6	69	76.7
	Never	27	19.4	21	23.3
High risk-HPV status	Positive	9	6.5	6	6.7
	Negative	130	93.5	84	93.3

TERT: telomerase reverse transcriptase; IQR: interquartile range; HPV: human papillomavirus.

Supplementary Table S2. Frequency distribution of tumour characteristics

		Studied patients		Subgroup analysed for TERT levels	
		<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Total number		139		90	
Site	Oral cavity	45	32.4	28	31.1
	Oropharynx	30	21.6	19	21.1
	Hypopharynx	18	12.9	12	13.3
	Larynx	46	33.1	31	34.4
Stage of primary tumor	T1	33	23.7	16	17.8
	T2	39	28.1	29	32.2
	T3	31	22.3	24	26.7
	T4	36	25.9	21	23.3
Nodal stage	N0	74	53.2	46	51.1
	N1	10	7.2	7	7.8
	N2a	12	8.6	7	7.8
	N2b	27	19.4	19	21.1
	N2c	12	8.6	7	7.8
	N3	4	2.9	4	4.4
Overall stage	I	29	20.9	13	14.4
	II	19	13.7	15	16.7
	III	25	18.0	17	18.9
	IV	66	47.5	45	50.0
Grading	well-differentiated	29	20.9	16	17.8
	moderately-differentiated	73	52.5	47	52.2
	poorly-differentiated	37	26.6	27	30.0

TERT: telomerase reverse transcriptase