

Special Issue

Recent Advances in Salivary Gland and Their Function

Message from the Guest Editor

Salivary gland dysfunctional changes occur with reduced salivary flow and dry mouth (xerostomia) and commonly involve oral dysfunction, tooth structure deterioration, and infection through reduced salivation. Anatomically, aging induces atrophy of acinar cells (ACs) and replacement of normal gland parenchyma with adipose tissue, connective tissue, and oncocytes. Recently, numerous medical drugs and treatments (radiation, chemotherapy) have been shown to significantly contribute to salivary gland dysfunction. Although changes associated with salivary gland dysfunction are affected by multiple factors, such as the environment, not all changes are considered to be physiological, and how aging influences the function of salivary glands is unclear. This Special Issue discusses the mechanism of aging–salivary gland disorder, and new entities, such as functional regeneration of the salivary gland. Furthermore, we provide an overview of new advances in the diagnostic, prognostic, and therapeutic implications of aging and the salivary gland.

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