



## Tip Of an Iceberg- The Untold Story of Smoking

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### Abstract

Saliva secreted by three pairs of major salivary glands and about 600-1000 minor salivary glands differs from one another in composition. The parotid gland secretes a watery saliva rich in enzymes like amylase and glycoprotein. The submandibular gland, on the other hand contains higher proportion of glycosylated substances such as mucin. The whole saliva collected from mouth is complex mixture and its composition reflects the cellular makeup of the particular gland. However, both the physical and chemical characteristics of saliva is altered during different disease conditions .Presence of carcinogenic agents like those associated with cigarettes and bidy also alters both the physical and chemical characteristics of saliva .This study focuses on the alteration of the physical characteristics of saliva in presence of carcinogenic agents that ultimately creates a suitable platform for the development of carcinoma.

**Keywords:** Smoking; Salivary gland; Carcinogenic agent.