

# INPLASY

INPLASY202650088

doi: 10.37766/inplasy2026.5.0088

Received: 15 May 2026

Published: 15 May 2026

## Corresponding author:

Cynthia Marina Urias Barreras

cynthia.urias@uas.edu.mx

## Author Affiliation:

Universidad Autónoma de Sinaloa.

## Prevalence of human papillomavirus (HPV) in non-malignant mucosal lesions of the oral cavity, oropharynx, and nasal cavity: a scoping review protocol

Rodríguez-Archilla, A; Urias-Barreras, CM; Méndez-Martínez, RS; Rendón-Maldonado, JG.

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

**Support** - None.

**Review Stage at time of this submission** - Completed but not published.

**Conflicts of interest** - None declared.

**INPLASY registration number:** INPLASY202650088

**Amendments** - This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 15 May 2026 and was last updated on 15 May 2026.

## INTRODUCTION

**Review question / Objective** Review question: What is the extent, range, and nature of the evidence regarding prevalence of human papillomavirus (HPV) in non-malignant mucosal lesions of the oral cavity, oropharynx, and nasal cavity?

**Objective:** To map and synthesize the available evidence regarding HPV prevalence in non-malignant mucosal lesions of the oral cavity, oropharynx, and nasal cavity.

**Background** Human papillomavirus (HPV) infection is a well-established etiological factor in the development of a subset of head and neck cancers, particularly oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma (OPSCC). However, the biological events linking initial HPV infection to the development of HPV-associated malignancies remain poorly understood.

**Rationale** Despite the growing body of literature on HPV-associated head and neck cancers, the

biological events linking initial HPV infection to malignant transformation remain incompletely understood. Furthermore, the potential role of HPV in non-malignant mucosal lesions of the upper aerodigestive tract remains insufficiently characterized. Understanding HPV prevalence in these lesions may contribute to clarifying early infection patterns and possible pathways involved in HPV-associated carcinogenesis. We believe that our findings will be of interest to researchers and clinicians working in oral pathology, head and neck oncology, and viral epidemiology.

## METHODS

**Strategy of data synthesis** We will search in PubMed, Scopus, and Web of Science using Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) and free-text terms related to HPV infection, anatomical location (oral cavity, oropharynx, and nasal cavity), and prevalence.

**Eligibility criteria** Studies will be included if they: evaluated HPV prevalence in tissue samples;

---

investigated non-malignant mucosal lesions; involved the oral cavity, oropharynx, or nasal cavity; used PCR-based HPV detection methods; and reported sufficient data to determine HPV prevalence. Cross-sectional studies published in peer-reviewed journals will be eligible.

#### **Source of evidence screening and selection**

Two reviewers will independently screen titles and abstracts, followed by full-text assessment. Disagreements will be resolved by consensus or by consultation with a third reviewer.

**Data management** A standardized extraction form will collect the following data: author and year of publication; country of study; study design; sample size; anatomical site; lesion type; HPV detection method; HPV prevalence; and detected HPV genotypes.

**Presentation of the results** Findings will be summarized descriptively and presented in tables and/or charts.

**Language restriction** Yes, studies written in English will be considered.

**Country(ies) involved** Mexico and Spain.

**Keywords** Benign mucosal lesions; human papillomavirus viruses; mouth mucosa; nasal mucosa; oropharynx; papillomavirus infections; prevalence; scoping reviews.

#### **Contributions of each author**

Author 1 - Alberto Rodríguez-Archilla - Conceptualization, methodology, software, validation, formal analysis, data curation, writing – original draft preparation, writing–review and editing, visualization, supervision, project administration.

Email: [alberodr@ugr.es](mailto:alberodr@ugr.es)

Author 2 - Cynthia Marina Urias-Barreras - Conceptualization, methodology, software, validation, formal analysis, resources, data curation, writing –original draft preparation, writing–review and editing, visualization.

Email: [cynthia.urias@uas.edu.mx](mailto:cynthia.urias@uas.edu.mx)

Author 3 - Rocío Susana Méndez-Martínez - Conceptualization, validation, data curation, writing –review and editing.

Email: [rosmen3244@gmail.com](mailto:rosmen3244@gmail.com)

Author 4 - José Guadalupe Rendón-Maldonado - Conceptualization, methodology, validation, resources, data curation, writing –original draft preparation, writing–review and editing, visualization, supervision, project administration.

Email: [jgrendonm@uas.edu.mx](mailto:jgrendonm@uas.edu.mx)