

SOX2 and HNC prognosis

Table S1. Multivariate analysis for disease-free and overall survival in our included studies

First author & publishing year	Multivariable analysis	Case number		OS		DFS	
		high expression n (%)	low expression n (%)	HR (95% CI)	P	HR (95% CI)	P
Luo <i>et al.</i> 2013 (NPC)	Yes	43 (35.2%)	79 (64.8%)	1.072 (0.556-2.064)	0.836	NA	NA
Ge <i>et al.</i> 2010 (HPC)	Yes	67 (78.8%)	18 (21.2%)	0.855 (0.477-1.532)	0.599	1.239 (0.681-2.254)	0.485
Dai <i>et al.</i> 2014 (SACC)	Yes	82 (62.6%)	49 (37.4%)	2.65 (1.21-5.20)	0.035	2.57 (1.44-5.07)	0.042
Du <i>et al.</i> 2011 (OTSCC)	Yes	51 (62.2%)	31 (37.8%)	2.94 (1.097-7.889)	0.032	3.8 (1.378-11.850)	0.011
Tang <i>et al.</i> 2013 (LC)	Yes	66 (41.0%)	95 (59.0%)	1.911 (1.037-3.522)	0.038	NA	NA
Wang <i>et al.</i> 2012 (NPC)	NA	29 (26.9%)	79 (73.1%)	NA	NA	NA	NA
Márquez <i>et al.</i> 2013 (HPC)	NA	39 (38.2%)	63 (61.8%)	NA	NA	NA	NA
Márquez <i>et al.</i> 2013 (LC)	NA	28 (41.8%)	39 (58.2%)	NA	NA	NA	NA
Márquez <i>et al.</i> 2013 (SNC)	NA	7 (13.7%)	44 (86.3%)	NA	NA	NA	NA

SOX2 and HNC prognosis

Table S2. Assessment of Newcastle-Ottawa Scale methodological quality of cohort studies

Study	Selection			Comparability	Outcome			Score	
	Representativeness of the exposed cohort	Selection of non-exposed cohort	Ascertainment of exposure		Outcome not present at start	Assessment of outcome	Follow-up length		Follow-up adequacy
Dai et al. (SACC)	★	★	★	★	★★	★	★	-	8
Du et al. (OTSCC)	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-	7
Ge et al. (HPC)	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-	7
Luo et al. (NPC)	★	★	★	★	★★	★	★	★	9
Márquez et al. (HPC)	★	★	★	★	★★	-	★	★	8
Márquez et al. (LC)	★	★	★	★	★★	-	★	★	8
Márquez et al. (SNC)	★	★	★	★	★★	-	★	★	8
Tang et al. (LC)	★	★	★	★	★★	★	★	-	8
Wang et al. (NPC)	★	★	★	★	★	-	★	-	6

Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale: study can have 1 star (★) for meeting each criterion, except that comparability (design or analysis) can have a maximum of 2 stars. For comparability in this study: 1 star if controlled for Age, gender, grade, etc.; 2 stars if also controlled for other important variables such as recurrence or metastasis.

SOX2 and HNC prognosis

Table S3. Main meta-analysis of association of SOX2 expression with clinicopathological indicators

Clinicopathological Indicators	Cohorts	OR (95% CI)	<i>P</i>	Model	Heterogeneity		Publication bias	
					<i>I</i> ²	<i>P</i> _{het}	Begg's <i>P</i>	Egger's <i>P</i>
Tumor grade (T3-T4)	8	2.10 (1.20-3.68)	0.01	Random	63%	0.009	0.174	0.177
TNM stage (III-IV)	6	4.22 (2.62-6.80)	< 0.00001	Fixed	23%	0.26	0.707	0.341
Histological grade (poor)	7	0.97 (0.51-1.85)	0.92	Random	44%	0.09	0.784	0.581
Lymph node metastasis	6	2.25 (1.50-3.35)	< 0.0001	Fixed	17%	0.30	0.707	0.108
Distant metastasis	4	2.09 (1.31-3.34)	0.002	Fixed	36%	0.21	0.734	0.348
Local recurrence	4	0.62 (0.29-1.36)	0.24	Fixed	42%	0.16	1.000	0.541