Outline
The specialty of oral medicine and pathology is concerned with diagnosis and study of the causes and effects of diseases affecting the oral and maxillofacial region. We perform pathological diagnosis of the surgical specimens obtained from oral and maxillofacial regions. We see the patients mainly suffering from oral psychosomatic disorders such as burning mouth syndrome, atypical odontalgia and dry mouth at the “Oral Medicine Consultation Clinic” in our hospital. Our research interests are shown below.

Faculty members
Professor ; Yoshihiro ABIKO, B.A., D.D.S., Ph.D.
Assistant professor/full-time lecturer ; Michiko NISHIMURA, D.D.S., Ph.D.
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Masafumi UTSUNOMIYA, D.D.S.
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Puja NEOPANE, M.S.
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Main research in progress
1) Epithelia antimicrobial peptides in oral health and diseases
2) Involved in epigenetics in oral diseases
3) Application of Epithelial rest of Malassez for tissue regeneration
4) Elucidation of the pathogenesis of the medically unexplained oral symptom
Possible therapeutic effect of beta-defensin 2, an antimicrobial peptide on oral epithelial lesions.

Gene transfection of beta-defensin 2 into oral cancer cells inhibits their proliferation.

DNA hypermethylation of certain types of genes may be involved in oral inflammatory lesions.

**Current publications**

* Uehara O et al., Upregulated expression of MMP-9 in gingival epithelial cells induced by prolonged stimulation with arecoline. Oncol Lett. 2017. [In press]
* Kamino Y et al., hBD-2 is downregulated in oral carcinoma cells by DNA hypermethylation, and increased expression of hBD-2 by DNA demethylation and gene transfection inhibits cell proliferation and invasion. Oncol Rep. 32: 462-468, 2014.