

## QUANTITATIVE SALIVARY GLAND SCINTIGRAPHY

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**AIM:**Uptake of  $^{99m}\text{Tc}$ -pertechnetate in salivary glands reflects intact salivary gland parenchyma. Qualitative reading comprised visual evaluation of tracer accumulation and excretion by the parotid and submandibular glands in either the scan or the time activity curves. However, no standardized protocol for an accurate quantification of parenchymal function has been established so far.

**MATERIAL AND METHODS:** In this paper we report on a validated acquisition protocol for standardized quantitative salivary gland scintigraphy.

**RESULTS:** The major advantage of salivary gland scintigraphy, as compared to other imaging modalities, is that both parenchymal function and excretion fraction of all four major salivary glands (i.e., parotid and submandibular glands) can be simultaneously quantified with a single intravenous injection.

**CONCLUSION:** Quantitative salivary gland scintigraphy is demonstrated to be a suitable imaging modality for research applications in evaluating function and abnormalities of salivary glands. Salivary gland scintigraphy is easy to perform, reproducible and well-tolerated by the patient.