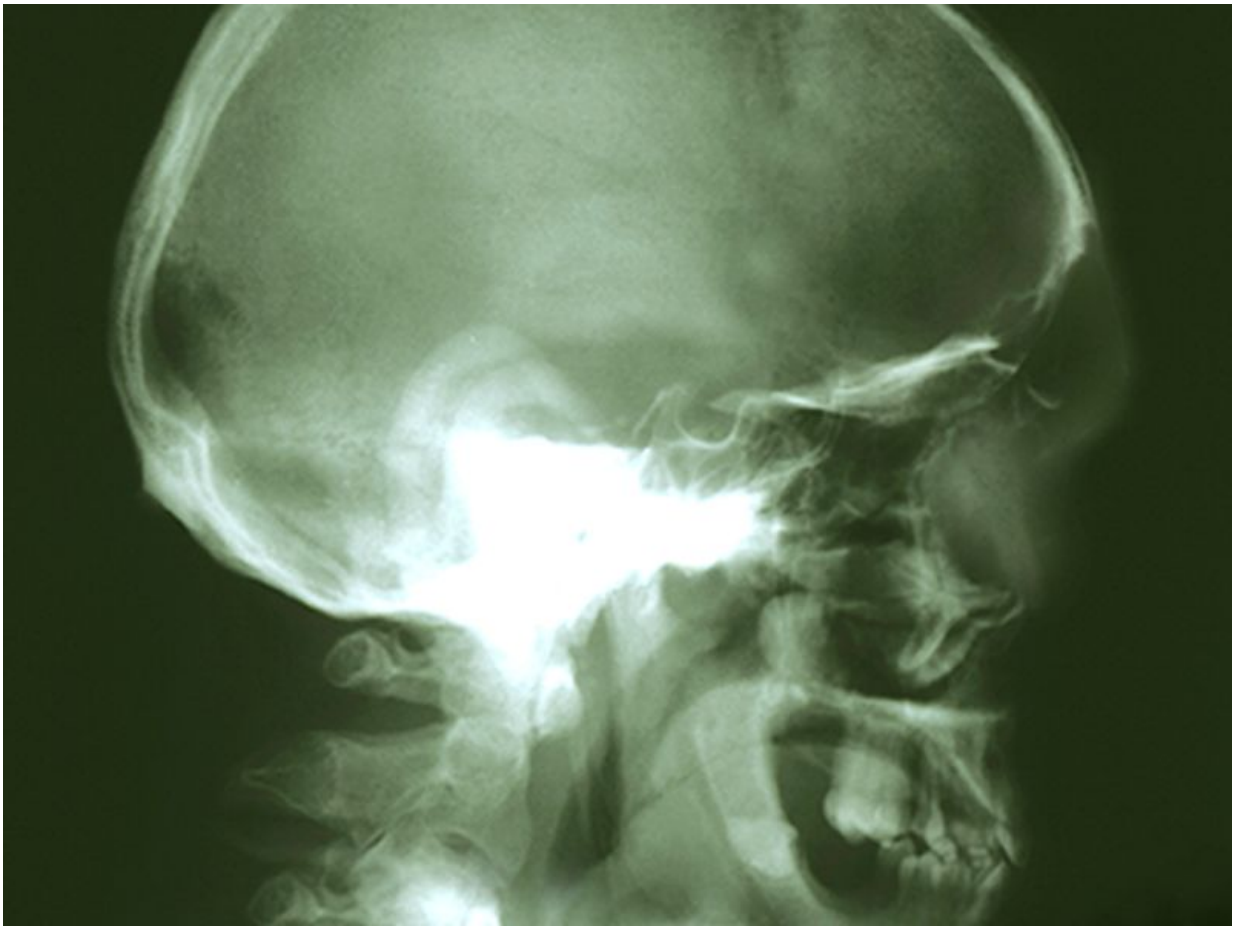
Geographic variation in HPV oropharyngeal cancer prevalence

January 15 2016



(HealthDay)—There is geographic variation in the proportion of head

and neck cancers attributable to human papillomavirus (HPV), according to a study published online Jan. 8 in *Head & Neck*.

Hisham Mehanna, Ph.D., from the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom, and colleagues tested formalin-fixed paraffin embedded diagnostic biopsies for p16 immunohistochemistry and HPV-DNA using validated protocols on samples from 801 patients with head and neck cancer. Participants were recruited prospectively between 2006 and 2011 in four randomized controlled trials.

The researchers found that 21 percent of patients were positive for both HPV-DNA and p16, detected primarily in oropharyngeal cancer (55 percent). HPV positivity was found in only 1 percent of patients with non-oropharyngeal cancer. There were differences in the prevalence of HPV-positive oropharyngeal cancer between Western Europe and Eastern Europe and Asia (37 versus 6 and 2 percent, respectively; both P

"This is the first study to establish geographic variability as an independent risk factor in HPV-positive oropharyngeal cancer prevalence, with higher prevalence in Western Europe," the authors write.

Several authors disclosed financial ties to the pharmaceutical industry.

More information: Abstract
Full Text

Copyright © 2016 HealthDay. All rights reserved.

Citation: Geographic variation in HPV oropharyngeal cancer prevalence (2016, January 15) retrieved 25 April 2024 from

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.