



Buccal Mucosa Cancer (BMC) & Alcohol Risk

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Context: A recent study published in *BMJ Global Health* (conducted by Tata Memorial Centre) found that even small amounts of alcohol (9g/day) increase the risk of BMC by 50% in Indian men.

- **What is BMC?:** It is cancer of the inner lining of the cheeks and lips. It is the most common form of oral cancer in India.
- **The "Synergistic" Effect:** The study found that alcohol makes the mouth lining more "permeable." This allows carcinogens from **tobacco/betel quid** to penetrate deeper, increasing the risk fourfold if both are used together.
- **The "Country Liquor" Factor:** Locally brewed alcohol (Mahua, Toddy, Desi Daru) showed a higher risk (87%) compared to international brands, likely due to unregulated contaminants like methanol.
- **Subject Reference:**
- **GS Paper II:** Social Justice (Issues relating to Health), Government Policies (Alcohol regulation under the 7th Schedule - State List).
- **GS Paper III:** Science and Technology (Developments in Health and Medicine).