

Appendix S1. Representative gating strategies for flow cytometry data.

The representative gating strategies for flow cytometry data are as follows: The first step typically involved forward scatter (FSC) and side scatter (SSC) gating. FSC, which is proportional to cell size, and SSC, which reflects cell granularity or internal complexity, are used to exclude debris, cell aggregates

and dead cells, focusing on single, viable cells. This initial gating step creates a clean 'parent' population for further analysis. Next, fluorescence-based gating was performed. Cells were labeled with fluorescent antibodies targeting specific cell surface or intracellular markers. By setting gates on the fluorescence intensity of these markers, distinct cell subsets can be identified.

Table SI. Clinical characteristics of the 10 patients with oral squamous cell carcinoma.

Patient characteristic	No. of patients	Percentage
Age, years		
<57	4	40
>57	6	60
Sex		
Male	5	50
Female	5	50
TNM stage		
I-II	4	40
III-IV	6	60

TNM, Tumor-Node-Metastasis.