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Supplementary Table 5: Question: Is there a specific clustering of oral symptoms associated with HNC treatment that could impact the pathogenesis of radiation caries?

Certainty assessment							Impact	Certainty	Importance
№ of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations			

Radiation-related symptoms clusters in descriptive studies (follow up: mean 6 months; assessed with: Assessment Scales or Questionnaires)

9	observational studies	serious ^a	serious ^b	not serious	not serious	very strong association	Patients usually experience severe symptoms at the end of radiotherapy and there is an impact of individual patterns. During the treatment process, determining the symptoms clusters may contribute on control and consequent improvement of quality of life.	⊕⊕○○ LOW	IMPORTANT
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Radiation-related symptoms clusters in cross-sectional studies (follow up: mean 1 years; assessed with: Questionnaire)

2	observational studies	not serious	not serious	not serious	not serious	strong association	Despite improvements in radiotherapy, HNC patients still suffer from numerous distressing acute and chronic side effects. Understanding the underlying relationship among symptoms may lead to a more efficient and effective approach to manage the symptom cluster as a whole.	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	IMPORTANT
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Explanations

a. Most studies were categorized as having a moderate risk of bias.

b. Symptoms were measured, analyzed and reported heterogeneously across studies.