

## Figure legends

**Supplementary Figure 1:** A) Representative images of expression of NGAL in oral cancer for each tissue including normal tissues (n=21), malignant mandible (n=11), palate (n=13), gingiva (n= 5), cheek (n=7), lip (n=36), parotid gland (n=8), tongue (n=46), lymph node (n=5) larynx (n=31), and nose (n=7). B) Representative images of expression of NGAL with the degree of differentiation including normal (n=11), well- (n=5), moderately (n=23), poorly differentiated (n=19), and undifferentiated (n=14) tongue tissues.

**Supplementary Figure 2:** A) Representative images of expression of NGAL in different stages of oral cancer i.e. normal tongue tissues (n=11), stage I (n=5), stage II (n=23), stage III (n=18), and stage IV (n=14) malignant tissues of tongue. B) Representative images of expression of NGAL in different grades of oral cancer i.e. in normal tongue tissues (n=11), grade I (n=10), grade II (n=3), and grade III (n=20) malignant tissues of tongue.

**Supplementary Figure 3:** Expression of NGAL in different stages of the development of oral cancer. CAT: Cancer adjacent tissue. A) Representative images of expression of NGAL in different stages of development of oral cancer. B) Mean composite score of NGAL levels in Normal tissues (n=10), inflammation (n=5), hyperplasia (n=5), cancer adjacent tissues (n=5), malignant tissues (n=42), and metastatic tissues (n=4). Data are mean  $\pm$  SE. \* =  $p < 0.05$ .

**Supplementary Figure 4:** Expression of NGAL in different types of oral cancer. A) Representative images of expression of NGAL in different types of oral cancer. B) Mean

composite score of NGAL levels in NT-Normal tissue (n=10), MEC-Mucoepidermoid carcinoma (n=8), ACC- Adenoid cystic carcinoma (n=3), BCC-Basal cell carcinoma (n=2), SCC-Squamous cell carcinoma (n=28), and MSCC-Metastatic squamous cell carcinoma (n=4) of oral cancer. Data are mean  $\pm$  SE. \*= p<0.05.

**Supplementary Figure 5:** Expression of NGAL with age and gender in oral cancer tissues. A) Mean composite score of NGAL levels in tissues from normal male (n=11), normal female (n=10), malignant male (n=100), and malignant female (n=39) patients with oral cancer. B) Mean composite score of NGAL levels in normal (n=17) and malignant oral cancer patient tissues of age groups 0-30 yr (n=4), 30-45 yr (n=18), 45-60 yr (n=63), and 60-100 yr (n=52). Data are mean  $\pm$  SE. \*= p<0.05.