

Thailand develops artificial saliva for cancer patients undergoing radiation therapy

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Highlights the role of collaboration between academic institutions, healthcare organisations, and industry



Chulalongkorn University, in collaboration with the Thai Red Cross Society and Specialty Innovation Co., has announced the licensing agreement for research utilisation and the launch of "SALYWA", an artificial saliva product made from Thai herbal extracts.

The product is designed to relieve dry mouth and reduced saliva production, particularly among cancer patients undergoing radiation therapy and elderly individuals. The initiative aims to bring Thai research into practical use under the concept of "Innovation for Society."

The innovation is protected under a petty patent jointly held by Chulalongkorn University and the Thai Red Cross Society. The product is formulated using Thai herbal extracts, particularly ginger extract, which helps stimulate natural saliva secretion. It features a Dual-Action concept, designed both to coat the oral cavity and increase moisture, leaving users with a comfortable and refreshed feeling after use.

Chronic dry mouth (Xerostomia) is a common condition, especially among head and neck cancer patients receiving radiation therapy. More than 70–80% of such patients experience reduced salivary gland function, which can cause difficulty eating and swallowing and increase the risk of oral infections.

At the same time, Thailand is rapidly becoming a fully aged society, with more than 13 million people aged 60 and above, representing over 20% of the population. This makes dry mouth and reduced saliva production a significant health issue affecting the quality of life of many people.

SALYWA is designed to be easy to use and safe, classified as not a drug and sugar-free, making it suitable for elderly individuals, cancer patients, and people with low saliva production.