Salivary Biosensors: Diagnosing the Nano-Way

Revolutionary genome-wide research tools have spawned remarkable advances in human genomics and proteomics. Human saliva contains a repertoire of proteins, glycoproteins, lipids, metabolites, RNA & genomic information, making up some diagnostic analytes inherent in other body fluids like blood, CSF & urine. The possibility to identify and measure biomarkers in saliva via biosensors opens the avenue for diagnosis, early detection, monitoring progression of disease and compliance to treatment modalities.



The main components of a biosensor. The bio-reaction (a) converts the substrate to product. This reaction is determined by the transducer (b) which converts it to an electrical signal. The output from the transducer is amplified (c), processed (d) and displayed (e) Salivary biosensors could propel the oral Physician's entry into primary health care

Various biosensing approaches for the detection of salivary biomarkers. (a) Local Surface Plasmon Resonance; (b) Enzyme sensor; (c) Surface Plasmon Resonance; (d) DNA chip