

HEAD AND NECK CANCER TREATMENT DECISIONS: WHAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU?



Program Resource Guide

Advice for Newly Diagnosed Patients	Factors That Impact Treatment Decisions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Find an oncologist and healthcare team you trust. ▪ Ask about clinical trials. ▪ Find support specialists, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Speech and language pathologists ▪ Dental care experts ▪ Occupational therapists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Type and subtype of head and neck cancer ▪ Location of the tumor ▪ Extent and stage of disease ▪ Patient-specific factors, such as: age, overall health, previous treatment, co-existing conditions ▪ Genetic mutations, tumor markers, and immune markers

Glossary Terms

Biomarker Testing (molecular testing): Laboratory testing that identifies certain genes, proteins, or other molecules in a sample of tissue, blood, or other body fluid. In cancer, it may also be used to evaluate treatment or to make a prognosis.

Circulating Tumor DNA: DNA found in the bloodstream from tumors and cancerous cells.

Clinical Trials: A research study that evaluates how newer approaches work in human subjects. Also called a clinical study, trials can test methods of preventing, screening, diagnosing, or treating a disease.

Gene Mutation: A permanent change in the DNA sequence that makes up a gene. Mutations can be acquired or inherited and may impact treatment choices.

Immunotherapy: Type of therapy that harnesses one's own immune system to help the body fight cancer, infection, and other diseases.

Palliative Care: Specialized medical care focused on relieving pain and symptoms of patients living with a serious illness. Palliative care aims to improve the quality of life for both the patient and the family.

Shared Decision-Making (SDM): Process of communication by which patients and clinicians collaborate to make healthcare decisions. The process encourages patients to take a more active role in their care and treatment.

PET (Positron Emission Tomography) Scan: Imaging test that uses a special dye with radioactive tracers to allow your doctor to check for diseases in your body.

Head and Neck Cancer Resources	Types of Head and Neck Cancer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CancerGRACE: cancergrace.org ▪ Cure: curetoday.com ▪ Cancer Support Community: cancersupportcommunity.org ▪ Head and Neck Cancer Alliance: headandneck.org ▪ National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD): rarediseases.org 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Squamous cell carcinoma ▪ Salivary gland cancers ▪ Skull-based tumors ▪ Midline and peri-sinus cancers <p>Squamous cell cancer subtypes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ HPV-positive (human papilloma virus) ▪ HPV-negative

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