

# HEAD & NECK CANCER: WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT EVOLVING TREATMENT AND RESEARCH

Program Resource Guide

## 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.

**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.

**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.

## Treatment Considerations

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Type and subtype of head and neck cancer.</li> <li>▪ Location of the tumor.</li> <li>▪ Extent and stage of disease.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Patient-specific factors, such as age, overall health, previous treatments, and co-existing conditions.</li> <li>▪ Genetic mutations, tumor markers, and immune markers.</li> </ul> |
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### Therapies Being Studied to Treat Head and Neck Cancer

- Antibody drug conjugates (ADCs)
- Cell therapies
- Immunotherapy
- Novel mechanisms
- Vaccines

### Types of Head and Neck Cancer Include:

- Larynx cancer
- Salivary gland cancers
- Squamous cell carcinoma
- Tongue cancer
- Throat cancer
- Thyroid cancer

## Questions to Ask About Clinical Trials

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What medicine will I receive?</li> <li>▪ Is there a placebo?</li> <li>▪ What group will I be assigned to?</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What phase is the study?</li> <li>▪ What is the time commitment?</li> <li>▪ Are there any financial reimbursements?</li> </ul> |
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## Educational Resources

- CancerGRACE: [cancergrace.org](http://cancergrace.org)
- Cure: [curetoday.com](http://curetoday.com)
- Cancer Support Community: [cancersupportcommunity.org](http://cancersupportcommunity.org)
- Head and Neck Cancer Alliance: [headandneck.org](http://headandneck.org)

Evolve Head and Neck Cancer is brought to you by the Patient



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[www.powerfulpatients.org](http://www.powerfulpatients.org)