

Understanding Head and Neck Cancers



How much do you know about cancers of the head and neck?
Help protect yourself by staying educated.

What Are Head and Neck Cancers?

These cancers can begin in several places:

- Lymph nodes of the neck
- The mouth (tongue, gums or roof of the mouth)
- Salivary glands
- Sinuses and nasal cavity
- The throat (pharynx) or back of the mouth
- The voice box (larynx)



How Common Are Head and Neck Cancers?



According to the Global Cancer Observatory, **more than 660,000 cases are diagnosed worldwide** every year.



Men older than 50 are the most likely to develop head and neck cancers.



What Are the Risk Factors?

- Smoking or using other tobacco products
- Drinking alcohol
- Being infected with human papilloma virus (HPV) or the Epstein-Barr virus
- Having radiation treatment to the head and neck
- Being exposed to certain substances

What Are the Symptoms to Watch For?

- Ear pain or difficulty hearing
- Fever higher than 101 degrees
- Lumps in the neck
- Pain or bleeding in the mouth
- Problems with breathing or swallowing
- Unexplained weight loss
- Voice changes



When detected early, head and neck cancers are highly treatable.

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