

Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma

Head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (HNSCC) comprises a group of cancers originating from the squamous cells lining the tissues in the head and neck area. These include the oral cavity, hypopharynx, nasopharynx, oropharynx, lip, nasal cavity, paranasal sinuses, and salivary glands, all of which play essential roles in respiration, swallowing, and air filtration. It is collectively ranked as **the seventh most common cancer diagnosis worldwide**.

Worldwide

in 2022

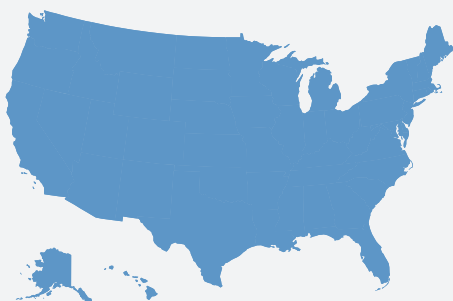


560K+
new cases

270K+
died from the disease

US

in 2023



66,920 new cases

49,190 in
men



17,730 in
women



15,400 estimated deaths

11,210 in
men



4,190 in
women



SYMPTOMS

Individuals with head and neck cancer frequently encounter the following symptoms or signs. Symptoms refer to noticeable changes within your body, while signs involve measurable alterations, such as those detected through blood pressure or lab tests. These combined indicators can assist in characterizing a medical issue. However, it's important to note that some individuals with head and neck cancer may not manifest any of the symptoms or signs detailed below.



Swelling or a wound that
does not heal on its own



Red or white patch
in the mouth



Lump, bump, or mass
in the head or neck area



Persistent sore throat



Foul mouth odor
not explained by hygiene



Hoarseness or
change in voice



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DIAGNOSIS



Physical examination/
blood and urine tests



Endoscopy



Biopsy



Panoramic radiograph



Magnetic resonance
imaging (MRI) scan



Ultrasound

TREATMENTS



Surgery



Radiation therapy



Chemotherapy



Targeted therapy



Immunotherapy

RISK FACTORS



Tobacco



Alcohol use



Chewing Constantly
on Areca Nuts



Human
Papillomavirus
(HPV) Infection



Other Viral
Infections



Epstein-Barr
virus (EBV)



Hepatitis C virus (HCV)



Consumption of Opium



Immunodeficiency

PREVENTION

The prevention of head and neck squamous cell carcinoma involves public health initiatives aimed at increasing oral screening and HPV vaccination, reducing exposure to tobacco, alcohol, and areca nut, and promoting a healthy lifestyle. The promotion of healthy diets, such as those high in fruits and vegetables, and good oral hygiene can also reduce the risk of HNSCC.



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