

The Leeds Specialist Head and Neck Cancer Service

Information for patients



Your treatment is planned by a group of health professionals who are specialists within the field of head and neck cancers. This group is known as the Multi-disciplinary Team (MDT).

Bringing specialists together at meetings to discuss your care makes sure the team provides a high standard of care. Following each meeting, information about your diagnosis and treatment options, is documented in your notes and in our computer records. This information is discussed with you at your clinic appointment.

You are encouraged to ask any questions or raise any concerns you may have during your clinic consultations and we will do our best to help you with these. You can expect to be provided with written information about your diagnosis and a treatment plan. You may also have a copy letter of your consultations to keep as a record of what was discussed with you.

The Head and Neck MDT

Some of the people in your Head and Neck MDT might include:

Specialist Surgeon

A doctor who is specially trained to remove and treat head and neck cancers. This could be an:

- oral and maxillofacial surgeon,
- an ear, nose and throat (ENT) surgeon or
- a plastic surgeon.

Oncologist

A doctor who is an expert in treating head and neck cancers using either radiotherapy, chemotherapy or both.

Specialist Dentist

Your oncologist or specialist surgeon may refer you to see a dentist experienced in treating people who have head and neck cancers .

Radiologist

A doctor who is an expert in reading x-rays and scans.

Pathologist

A doctor who is an expert in looking at cells using a microscope. If you have had a biopsy, the pathologist can tell the MDT what type of cancer you have.

Head and Neck Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS)

A nurse who is a specialist in caring and supporting people with head and neck cancers. Your CNS can help you understand anything you may feel unsure about and can refer you to other services if needed. They provide a link between you and other members of the MDT. Your head and neck CNS may also be your key worker.

Key Workers

To provide continuing information and support for you during your treatment you will be offered a key worker.

Your key worker is:

Speech and Language Therapist (SaLT)

A speech and language therapist specialising in helping people with head and neck cancer. They will help you if you have any speech or swallowing problems.

Dietitian

The head and neck specialist dietitian offers support and advice about your diet and eating. This makes sure you get all the nutrients your body needs.

Research Team

We actively carry out research within this hospital with the aim of improving future treatment; you may be approached by one of the team if you are eligible.

Other specialists and support services you may meet include:

- Macmillan Specialist Nurse and Radiographer - provide support through radiotherapy
- Social workers
- Clinical psychologists
- Palliative care team
- Leeds Cancer Support -

Radiotherapy Information Lounge Tel: 0113 206 8940

Information Centre Level 1 Tel: (0113) 206 8816

Sir Robert Ogden Macmillan Centre Tel: (0113) 206 6498

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