CLINICAL TRIALS AND RESEARCH

Many of the head and neck physicians at Yale are also cancer researchers who study how to prevent or treat head and neck cancers in their laboratories, who lead clinical trials, or who analyze information from national databases to compare the effectiveness of different treatment approaches. We are committed to not only providing you with the very best care today, but are dedicated to cutting-edge research and innovative therapies that will advance the standard of care tomorrow.

Our radiation oncologists actively participate in clinical trials that explore novel agents to sensitize cancer cells to radiation, as well as new therapies that may help maintain treatment response. Although immunotherapy is effective for patients with head and neck cancer when other options haven’t worked, our physicians are ready to offer targeted therapies. Recently a trial led by one of our doctors led to FDA approval of a new treatment option for head and neck cancer, and there are currently studies underway looking at how to best treat human papillomavirus (HPV)-positive head and neck cancers.

Yale Cancer Center was recently awarded grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to fund the Yale Head and Neck Cancer Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPORE) to address critical barriers to treatment of head and neck squamous cell carcinoma due to resistance to immune, DNA damaging, and targeted therapy. Yale researchers also hold grants from the National Cancer Institute and the Department of Defense to study new treatments in head and neck cancer.

appointments

HOW TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

For more information or to schedule an appointment with a member of the Head and Neck Cancers Program, please contact our patient intake coordinators at (203) 200-4622. They will provide you with assistance during your diagnosis, treatment, and recovery and our nurse coordinator can help answer questions that you may have. Our goal is to ensure that each patient has an outstanding and positive cancer care experience. When you call, a patient intake coordinator will help to arrange your appointments so that you will see all of the specialists needed during an initial visit.

My cancer was pretty aggressive, so we decided to start treatment as soon as possible. I have since resumed my old hobbies and am grateful to have another day.

– Marjorie

For Marjorie’s story: m.yale.edu/marjorie-story

© 2021 Yale Cancer Center
T
reducing the chances of a recurrence, as well as to shrink the existing tumor before surgery.
Our team is continually developing new treatment approaches for head and neck cancers, few centers nationally.
Sometimes surgery, either alone or combined with radiation or chemotherapy, gives the
tumor. Their tumor is an important element in deciding which treatment approach we recommend for you.
It has been proven that when radiation treatment is administered at a high-volume
nerve, arteries, and muscles in the neck. Patients continue to move, speak, breathe, and eat
box), pharynx (throat), oral cavity (mouth), ear, sinuses, tonsils, and salivary glands, as well
difficult and routine cases involving the neck, larynx (voice
there are many options available including minimally invasive surgical approaches as
therapists, advanced practice nurses, and social workers. Functional outcome
were the tone subtly and internationally for clinical trials and state-of-the-art care
evolution, and is an important element in deciding which treatment approach we recommend for you.
A study led by Yale Cancer Center revealed that the checkpoint inhibitor pembrolizumab
led to FDA approval of immunotherapy as first-line treatment in head and neck cancer that
"keynote" offers patients with advanced head and neck cancers longer survival time than the old standard of chemotherapy as frontline treatment in head and neck cancer that
Our surgeons are given access to some of the most highly trained specialty support staff in the
m.yale.edu/mark-story
Our staff is specially trained to care for your needs following treatment. They are experts in
surgery, either alone or combined with radiation or chemotherapy, gives the
Our specialists at Yale Cancer Center are taking care of head and neck cancer patients and achieves
Among those, the transoral robotic surgery (TORS) can be used to remove certain throat cancers while avoiding some skin and bone
Our medical oncologists have unique expertise in head and neck cancers and dedicate their
PATHOLOGY, nutrition, smoking cessation, dentists, physical/lymphedema therapists, and support team weekly. The team works to address any symptom management, nutritional needs, or social support needs. After treatment is completed, your radiation oncologist will continue to follow you to help with cancer surveillance, and also symptom management.
SURGICAL CARE
Our team of surgeons specializes in taking care of head and neck cancer patients and achieves
oncology
Radiation therapy is a critical tool for some of the head and neck cancers. Radiation

tumors or is locally extensive, and this approach can lead to organ preservation and improve
When a tumor has been removed, reconstructive surgery is needed. Surgery is usually performed at the
high in part because of the high volume of cases performed at Yale, and the skill and experience
The multidisciplinarity, the unique expertise, and the support that we provide are invaluable. With
Mark