

# HEAD & NECK CANCER



Head and neck cancer has become a pressing health concern in the UK, yet it remains largely unknown. We have a critical window of opportunity to change its trajectory, but we need your support.

## The Alarming Statistics

- 30% annual increase expected by 2030
- Only 1/3 of cases detected early
- Top 5 in men, top 10 cancer overall
- 30% caused by HPV, preventable by vaccine
- <60% HPV vaccine uptake; millions at risk
- Bottom of league table for treatment wait times
- 1% of CRUK cancer funding last year
- Poor access to dentists/GPs delays diagnosis
- 101% higher in men from deprived areas

## The Hidden Crisis Unveiled

- **Top 10 cancer** with least awareness & funding
- **Prevention gaps:** Next generation at risk. More head & neck than cervical cancers from HPV.
- **Diagnosis crisis:** Poor dental/GP access leads to late detection & worse outcomes.
- **NHS delays critical:** Longest waits for cancer treatment. Disease progresses as patients wait.
- **Research underfunded:** Lack of funds slows treatment progress & nationwide best practices.
- **Health inequality:** Large gaps in incidence & survival rates across social groups.

## THE UK'S HIDDEN HEALTH CRISIS

# THE HARSH REALITY OF HEAD & NECK CANCERS: LIFE AFTER TREATMENT

Head and neck cancers do not just end with treatment – the effects can last a lifetime and can be devastating.

## Imagine...

### Losing your voice – no more words

What if you could not speak? Patients can lose their tongue, their voice box and/or be left with electronic or written speech devices. Communicating with loved ones can become frustrating and isolating.

### Not being able to eat – no more Sunday roasts or family meals

Your mouth or throat can be so painful or your jaw so damaged that you can no longer enjoy a simple meal. Some patients are forced to live with feeding tubes just to stay nourished.

### Not being able to kiss – no more kisses to your partner or family

Patients can lose feeling, movement or control over their mouth making it uncomfortable, embarrassing, or difficult to kiss.

### Losing part of your face – visible scars

Surgery can mean losing parts of your face or neck, leaving large scars that change the way you look and the way people look at you. Nerves can be affected that limit movement or senses, or even worse key functions are lost. Even with the best reconstructive surgery, how you show up in the world is changed.

**...these are the realities for many survivors.**



## A CRITICAL MOMENT FOR CHANGE

The harsh reality is that things have reached a critical point, and that is why we are finally being noticed. This gives us a powerful opportunity to collaborate with policymakers, partners, and the NHS to drive real change.

### But we cannot do it alone

We need your help. Together, we can save lives and bring hope to those battling these devastating cancers. Your generosity will make a difference.

## Oracle Head & Neck Cancer UK: Pioneering research for a cancer-free future

### For More Information

Visit our website:  
[oraclehnc.org.uk](http://oraclehnc.org.uk)

Email us:  
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Call us:  
**0203 475 3471**

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### Support Our Vision and Become Part of the Change

Your expertise and involvement are crucial in our fight against head and neck cancer.

Join Oracle Head & Neck Cancer UK in fostering a collaborative community dedicated to research, education, and patient care.



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