Upper aerodigestive tract cancer overview

NICE Pathways bring together all NICE guidance, quality standards and other NICE information on a specific topic.

NICE Pathways are interactive and designed to be used online. They are updated regularly as new NICE guidance is published. To view the latest version of this pathway see:

Pathway last updated: 20 April 2016

This document contains a single pathway diagram and uses numbering to link the boxes to the associated recommendations.

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Upper aerodigestive tract cancer overview

Person aged 16 years or over with suspected upper aerodigestive tract cancer

Information and support

Investigation

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Treatment

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Further treatment, rehabilitation and follow-up

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Service organisation

NICE pathway on patient experience in adult NHS services

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1. **Person aged 16 years or over with suspected upper aerodigestive tract cancer**

   No additional information

2. **Information and support**

   For people with cancer of the upper aerodigestive tract and their carers:
   
   - provide consistent information and support at diagnosis
   - review their needs throughout the care pathway including at the end of treatment
   - tailor information and support to the person's needs (including the benefits and side effects of treatment, psychosocial and long-term functional issues).

   Give people contact details for their allocated key worker, in line with the NICE service guidance on improving outcomes in head and neck cancer and recommendations of the National Peer Review Programme.

   Give people details of peer support services that can help them throughout their care pathway.

   Offer information about HPV to people with HPV-related cancer of the upper aerodigestive tract.

   **Smoking cessation**

   Inform patients and carers at the point of diagnosis about how continuing to smoke adversely affects outcomes such as:
   
   - treatment-related side effects
   - risk of recurrence
   - risk of second primary cancers.

   Offer help to people to stop smoking, in line with the NICE pathway on smoking.

3. **Investigation**

   See Upper aerodigestive tract cancer / Investigation of upper aerodigestive tract cancer
4 Treatment

See Upper aerodigestive tract cancer / Treatment of upper aerodigestive tract cancer

5 Further treatment, rehabilitation and follow-up

See Upper aerodigestive tract cancer / Further treatment, rehabilitation and follow-up of upper aerodigestive tract cancer

6 Service organisation

NICE has produced cancer service guidance on improving outcomes in head and neck cancers and improving supportive and palliative care for adults with cancer.

7 NICE pathway on patient experience in adult NHS services

See Patient experience in adult NHS services
Glossary

FDG PET

fluorodeoxyglucose positron emission tomography

HPV

human papillomavirus

Sources

Cancer of the upper aerodigestive tract (2016) NICE guideline NG36

Your responsibility

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