

Head and Neck Cancer Patients

SPOHNC, Santa Maria (Support for People with Oral, Head, and Neck Cancer, Inc.) invites you to join us virtually for a special presentation:

Transoral Robotic Surgery (TORS) in Head and Neck Cancers and Post Treatment Follow-up



Tuesday, October 19, 2021
3:30 p.m.

Guest speakers:

Robert Stewart, MD, and Bhavishya Clark, MD

Among the advancements in treating head and neck cancers is transoral robotic surgery (TORS)—a technique used to treat oral, throat, and skull base cancers using a minimally invasive robotic approach through the mouth and throat. Robotic surgery allows the surgeon to operate in tight spaces without a large open incision. TORS represents a new, less intrusive surgical method which eliminates scarring and often quickens recovery time.

To register for this virtual event, please call Mission Hope Cancer Center at 805.219.HOPE (4673)

Head and neck support group continues to educate via Zoom

SPOHNC, Santa Maria (Support for People with Oral, Head, and Neck Cancer, Inc.) holds open discussions every other month on Zoom, led by Gina Rotondo, MS, CCC-SLP, Speech Language Pathologist, and Yamini Balasubramanian, MS, CCC-SLP, Speech Language Pathologist.

For more detailed information, please call Mission Hope at 805.219.HOPE (4673) or check the website

Challenges faced by those with head and/or neck cancer

Head and neck cancer-related treatments can have significant short- and long-term negative implications on speech and swallow functions, and overall quality of life. Effects may negatively impact a person's ability to eat and drink due to difficulty opening the mouth, poor saliva production, difficulty chewing, taste changes, food sticking in the throat during or after swallowing, or food or liquid going down the wrong pipe and up the nose when swallowing. Other complications include voice changes, such as developing a hoarse and breathy voice or experiencing changes in pitch and loudness, impaired speech, and anatomical changes to the face and neck.

The list of long-term side effects can be overwhelming at any point in diagnosis, treatment, and remission. The importance of having a support system amid navigating these issues unique to head and neck cancer patients can positively impact recovery. While weekly therapy with a speech-language pathologist helps with some of the physical changes, a support group can also assist in meeting psychosocial needs of patients, provide education and awareness specific to the needs of head and neck cancer patients, and promote physical and emotional health of patients, caregivers, and family.



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