



TALKING TO YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT IMMUNOTHERAPY TREATMENT OPTION FOR ORAL, HEAD AND NECK CANCERS

Oral, head and neck cancers start in the tissues and organs of the head and neck. They include cancers of the larynx (voice box), throat, lips, mouth, nose, and salivary glands. To get the right information about treatment and prognosis, you need to know the exact type and stage of your cancer. Your treatment plan may depend upon a host of factors, such as hormone receptor status or even a prior cancer diagnosis.

Treatment plans are often based on both medical and personal needs (for example, how it affects your ability to work, frequency of treatments, or location of treatments).

Treatments for your cancer may include:

- Surgery
- Radiation therapy
- Chemotherapy
- Targeted therapy
- Immunotherapy

Before choosing a treatment plan, it is important to be knowledgeable of the risk factors and benefits of treatments.

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS WILL HELP GUIDE YOUR CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR DOCTOR:

- What is the stage of my cancer? Is it “advanced,” and what does that mean for treatment options?
- Who is involved in my care and do I need to have a specialist manage my treatment(s)?
- What are my treatment choices? When does treatment begin?
- Why do you suggest that treatment plan?
- What are the possible side effects of the treatment plan?
- What is immunotherapy and is it an option for me?
- If immunotherapy is not a good option, why?
- Are there any clinical trials to consider as a treatment for my cancer?
- What resources are available to learn more about the various treatments?
- Will you help me find another doctor to contact about getting a second opinion?
- How long do I have to make a treatment decision?

Immunotherapy is a class of medications used to treat cancer by activating the immune system to eliminate tumor cells. Such medicines are now used to treat several human cancers and some immunotherapies have been approved in head and neck cancer. These drugs provide an additional approach to control disease but also have unique side effects that you should be aware of.

Visit www.headandneck.org for more information.



HEAD AND NECK CANCER
ALLIANCE

PO Box 21688
Charleston, South Carolina 29413
www.headandneck.org | info@headandneck.org
(866) 792-4622