

# Head and Neck

Multidisciplinary Review



# Agenda

Review current practices for Head and Neck Cancers

- Locally Advanced Oropharyngeal Cancer

- Metastatic Oral Cavity Cancer

Explore the multidisciplinary care of Head and Neck Patients

- Medical Oncology

- Radiation Oncology

- Oral Medicine

- Nutritional Services

# Learning Objectives

## - Multidisciplinary Head & Neck

- Understand current options and staging differences for oropharyngeal cancer
- Explore radiation sensitizers for definitive chemoradiation in oropharyngeal cancer
- Review therapeutic options for metastatic head and neck cancer
- Discuss vital care from oral medicine in head and neck cancer
- Refine the options for nutritional support in head and neck cancer patients

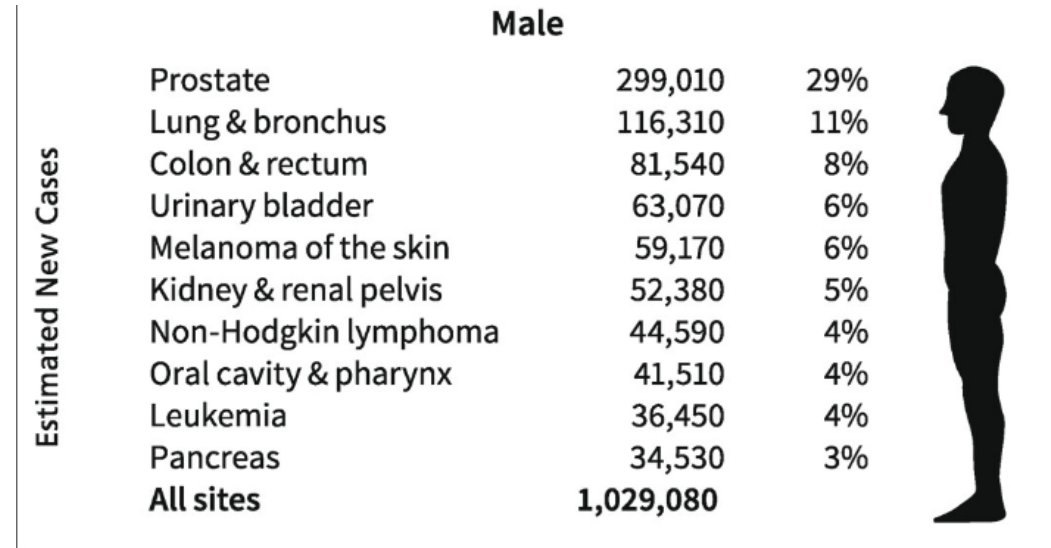
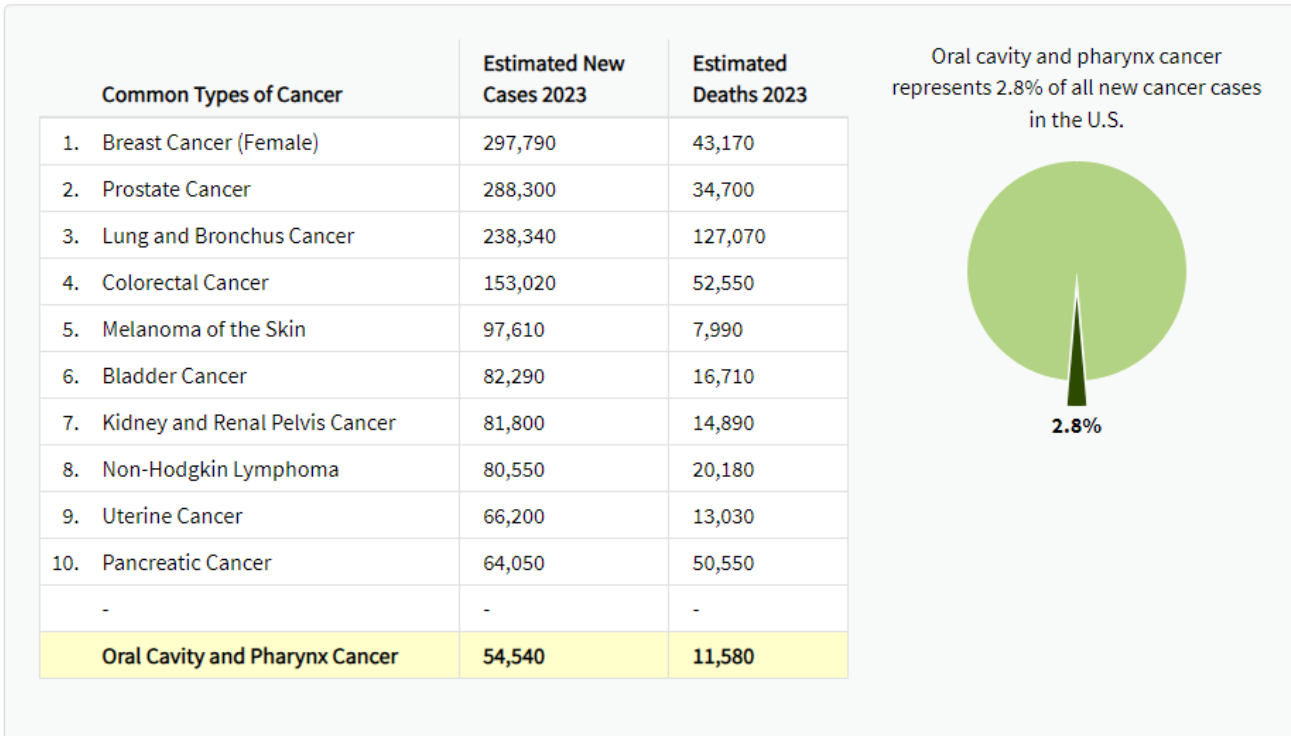
# Head and Neck Cancer

## Our esteemed panel:

- ❖ Dan Carrizosa, MD, MS, FACP – medical oncology
- ❖ Sayyad Zia, MD – radiation oncology
- ❖ Mike Brennan, DDS, MHS – oral medicine
- ❖ Michele Szafranski, MS, RD, CSO, LDN - nutrition

# Head and Neck Cancer

## How Common Is This Cancer?



©2024, American Cancer Society, Inc., Surveillance and Health Equity Science  
<https://acsjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.3322/caac.21820>

In 2023, it is estimated that there will be 54,540 new cases of oral cavity and pharynx cancer and an estimated 11,580 people will die of this disease.

2023 NCI SEER Cancer Facts: <https://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/oralcav.html>

# Head and Neck

## Locally Advanced Oropharynx Cancer

69 yo male p/w voice change over 1 month with worsening ear pain and sore throat

- No history of fever or trauma
- No weight loss
- Plays golf on a regular basis
- PMHx:
  - Atrial Fibrillation
  - Chronic Diarrhea from pancreatic insufficiency
  - HTN
  - Dyslipidemia
  - Infrarenal Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm

# Head and Neck

## Locally Advanced Oropharynx Cancer

Labs: Cr 1.23, LFT and CBCwdiff WNL

Flex Fiberoptic Nasolaryngoscopy:

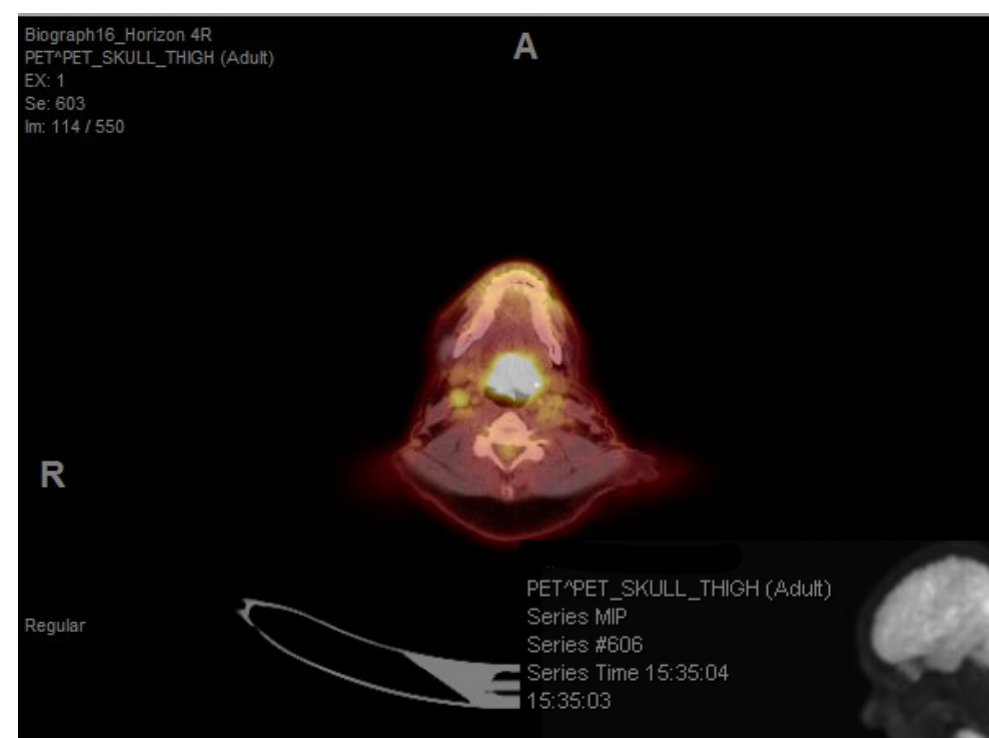
Endophytic Left Base of tongue mass

Pathology: Base of Tongue Biopsy

HPV-Associated Squamous Cell Carcinoma

p16 positive

PET: midline hypermetabolic mass involving posterior tongue = 3.8\*4cm with avid hypermetabolic activity w/ involvement of extrinsic tongue musculature. Bilateral hypermetabolic cervical chain lymph nodes. No distant disease



# Head and Neck

## Locally Advanced Oropharynx Cancer

Staging:

Stage III: (T4N2M0)

What are our options?

Need Multidisciplinary Team!



National  
Comprehensive  
Cancer  
Network®

### NCCN Guidelines Version 2.2024 Head and Neck Cancers

[NCCN Guidelines Index](#)  
[Table of Contents](#)  
[Discussion](#)

**Table 4**

**American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC)**

**TNM Staging System for HPV-Mediated (p16+) Oropharyngeal Cancer (8th ed., 2017)**

(Not including: P16-negative (p16-) cancers of the oropharynx)

#### Primary Tumor (T)

**T0** No primary identified

**T1** Tumor 2 cm or smaller in greatest dimension

**T2** Tumor larger than 2 cm but not larger than 4 cm in greatest dimension

**T3** Tumor larger than 4 cm in greatest dimension or extension to lingual surface of epiglottis

**T4** Moderately advanced local disease

Tumor invades the larynx, extrinsic muscle of tongue, medial pterygoid, hard palate, or mandible or beyond\*

Mucosal extension to lingual surface of epiglottis from primary tumors of the base of the tongue and vallecula does not constitute invasion of the larynx.

#### Regional Lymph Nodes (N)

##### Clinical N (cN)

**NX** Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed

**N0** No regional lymph node metastasis

**N1** One or more ipsilateral lymph nodes, none larger than 6 cm

**N2** Contralateral or bilateral lymph nodes, none larger than 6 cm

**N3** Lymph node(s) larger than 6 cm

#### Prognostic Stage Groups

##### Clinical

**Stage I** T0,T1,T2 N0,N1 M0

**Stage II** T0,T1,T2 N2 M0

T3 N0,N1,N2 M0

**Stage III** T0,T1,T2,T3 N3 M0

T4 N0,N1,N2,N3 M0

**Stage IV** Any T Any N M1

##### Pathological

**Stage I** T0,T1,T2 N0,N1 M0

**Stage II** T0,T1,T2 N2 M0

T3,T4 N0,N1 M0

**Stage III** T3,T4 N2 M0

**Stage IV** Any T Any N M1



# Head and Neck

## Locally Advanced Oropharynx Cancer

Multidisciplinary Team:

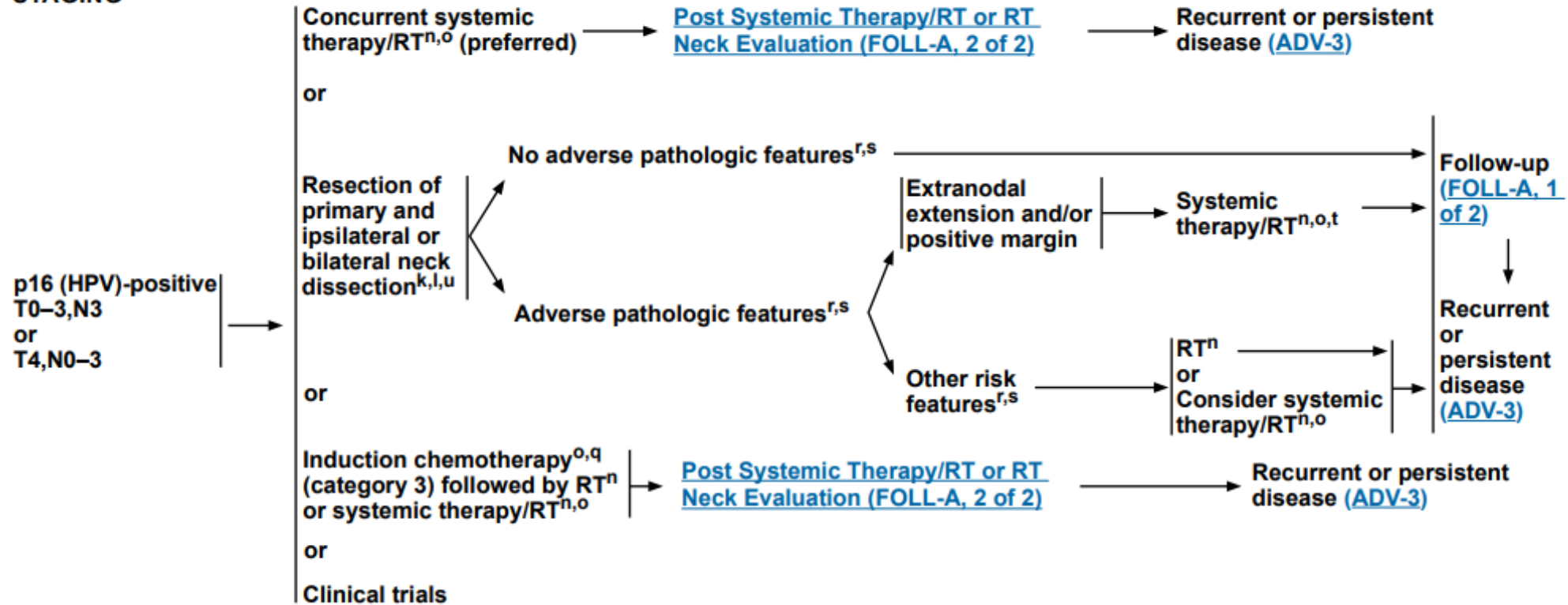
- Surgery
- Radiation
- Medical Oncology
- Oral Medicine
- Nutrition
- Speech Pathology
- Social Work
- Pathology
- Radiologist

# Head and Neck

Base of Tongue/Tonsil/Posterior Pharyngeal Wall/Soft Palate  
CLINICAL STAGING

TREATMENT OF PRIMARY AND NECK

ADJUVANT TREATMENT



# Head and Neck

## Locally Advanced Oropharynx Cancer

Chemoradiation:

- 1) High-dose Cisplatin (100mg/m<sup>2</sup> q3wks \* 2-3)
- 2) Weekly Cisplatin (40mg/m<sup>2</sup> weekly)
- 3) Cetuximab (400mg/m<sup>2</sup> followed by 250mg/m<sup>2</sup> weekly)
- 4) Docetaxel (15mg/m<sup>2</sup> weekly)

Patil VM et al DOI: 10.1200/JCO.22.00980 - Phase II/III compared to Placebo

Improvement in 2yr DFS (30.3 vs 42% HR 0.673) and 2yr OS (41.7 vs 50.8% HR 0.747)

- 5) Carboplatin/Paclitaxel
- 6) Carboplatin/Infusional 5-FU

# Locally Advanced Oropharynx Cancer

## Radiation Treatment Algorithm and Treatment Timeline

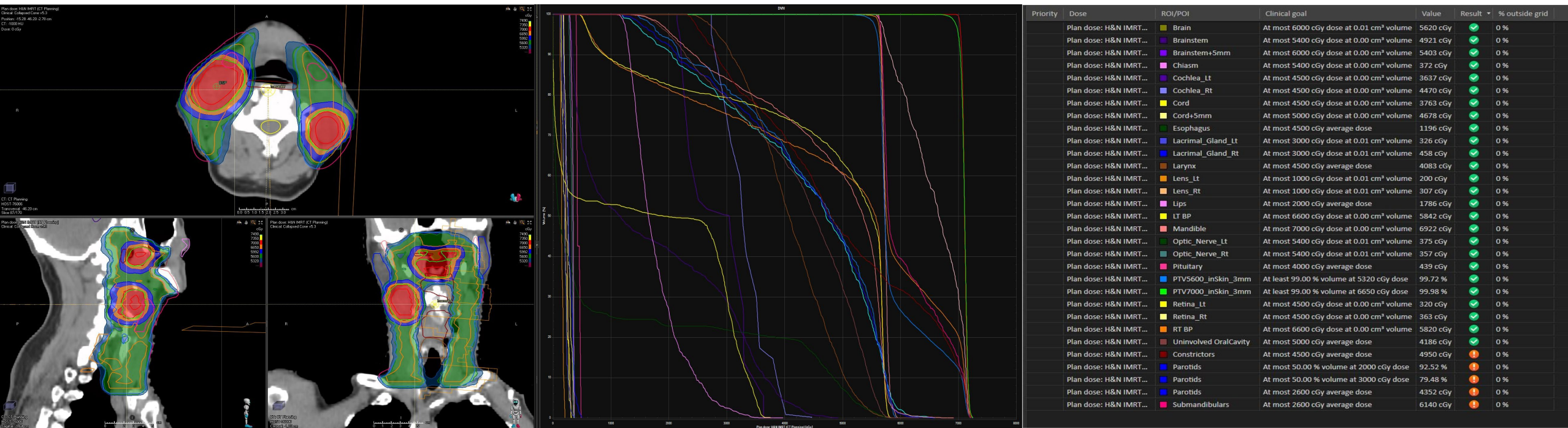
- Consultation with Scope Examination
- Radiation Simulation(CT Scan) in the Treatment Planning Position with Immobilization



[https://www.aboutcancer.com/neck\\_simulation.htm](https://www.aboutcancer.com/neck_simulation.htm)

# Locally Advanced Oropharynx Cancer

## Radiation Treatment Planning



# Locally Advanced Oropharynx Cancer

## Radiation Treatment Algorithm and Treatment Timeline

- IMRT plan development takes 1-2 weeks
- Physics Q/A
- Daily Monday-Friday Treatments for 35 fractions to a total delivered dose of 7000cGy to the areas of gross disease and lower dose to at risk areas with concurrent chemotherapy
- Weekly On-Treatment Visits to assess treatment toxicity and management
- Follow q3 months with scope examination alternating with ENT if following
- PET/CT at 3 months and further imaging dictated by clinical findings

# Head and Neck - Audience Response

## Locally Advanced Oropharynx Cancer

Chemoradiation:

- 1) High-dose Cisplatin (100mg/m<sup>2</sup> q3wks \* 2-3)
- 2) Weekly Cisplatin (40mg/m<sup>2</sup> weekly)
- 3) Cetuximab (400mg/m<sup>2</sup> followed by 250mg/m<sup>2</sup> weekly)
- 4) Docetaxel (15mg/m<sup>2</sup> weekly)

Patil VM et al DOI: 10.1200/JCO.22.00980 - Phase II/III compared to Placebo

Improvement in 2yr DFS (30.3 vs 42% HR 0.673) and 2yr OS (41.7 vs 50.8% HR 0.747)

- 5) Carboplatin/Paclitaxel
- 6) Carboplatin/Infusional 5-FU

# Head and Neck – Audience Response

## Locally Advanced Oropharynx Cancer

Chemoradiation but now he is 78 with moderate hearing loss.

- 1) High-dose Cisplatin (100mg/m<sup>2</sup> q3wks \* 2-3)
- 2) Weekly Cisplatin (40mg/m<sup>2</sup> weekly)
- 3) Cetuximab (400mg/m<sup>2</sup> followed by 250mg/m<sup>2</sup> weekly)
- 4) Docetaxel (15mg/m<sup>2</sup> weekly)

Patil VM et al DOI: 10.1200/JCO.22.00980 - Phase II/III compared to Placebo

Improvement in 2yr DFS (30.3 vs 42% HR 0.673) and 2yr OS (41.7 vs 50.8% HR 0.747)

- 5) Carboplatin/Paclitaxel
- 6) Carboplatin/Infusional 5-FU



# Head and Neck

## Locally Advanced Oropharynx Cancer

Oral Medicine:

# Head and Neck

## Locally Advanced Oropharynx Cancer

Nutrition:

# Head and Neck

## Locally Advanced Oropharynx Cancer

Outcome:

3-month PET post-chemoradiation shows Complete Response

Survivorship:

Watch for Thyroid Dysfunction

Watch for Carotid Atherosclerosis

Watch for recurrence/secondary malignancy

# Head and Neck

## Metastatic Oral Cavity Cancer

58 yo with history of a Stage IVa (T4aN0M0) tongue cancer presents with several month history of cough.

Treated with Antibiotics \* 2 without improvement

Past Hx:

5 years prior to presentation, partial glossectomy with neck dissection and radial forearm free flap (T1N0M0)

2 years prior to presentation, hemimandibulectomy and partial glossectomy w/ left tonsil/soft palate resection and partial pharyngectomy with fibular free flap (T4aN0M0)

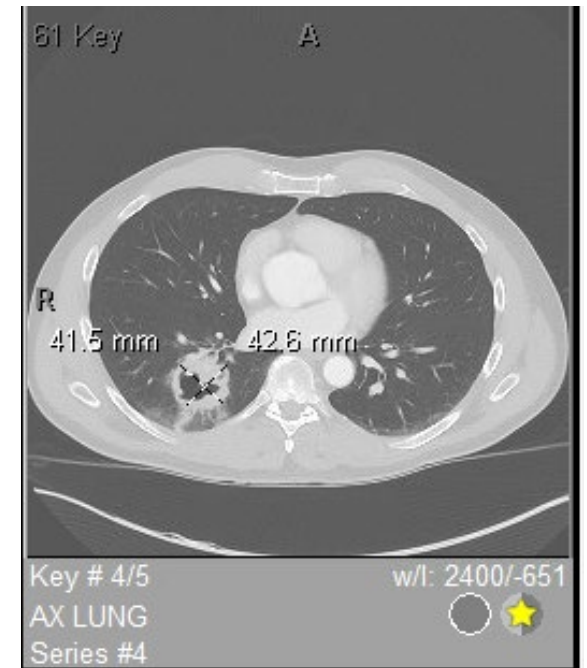
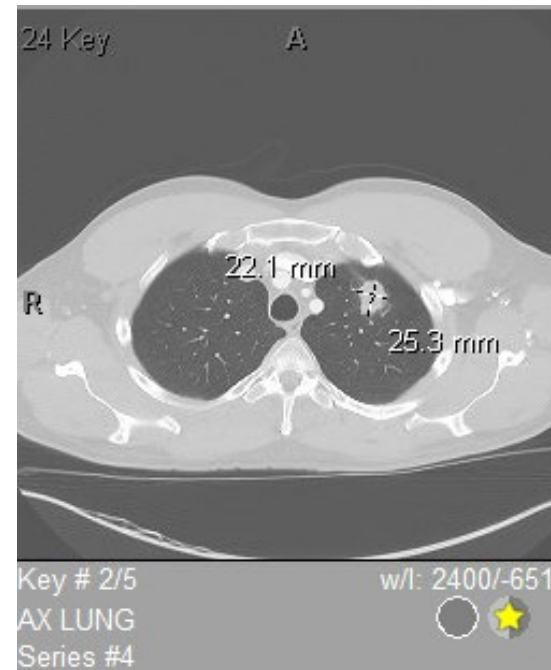
Adjuvant XRT alone (60 Gy)

# Head and Neck

## Metastatic Oral Cavity Cancer

CT: No evidence of recurrence in Neck; numerous bilateral pulmonary nodules with largest measuring 4.3cm

Pathology: Robotic bronchoscopy – positive for keratinizing squamous cell carcinoma. CPS 7



# Head and Neck

## Metastatic Oral Cavity Cancer

Staging: Stage IVc (T0N0M1)

What are our options?

# Head and Neck

## Metastatic Oral Cavity Cancer

Immunotherapy:

Pembrolizumab 200mg IV q3wks or 400mg IV q6wks

Chemoimmunotherapy:

Platinum (Cis or Carbo)/Infusional 5-FU/pembrolizumab

Clinical Trial: ?

# Head and Neck – Audience Response

## Metastatic Oral Cavity Cancer

### 1) Immunotherapy:

Pembrolizumab 200mg IV q3wks or 400mg IV q6wks

### 2) Chemoimmunotherapy:

Platinum (Cis or Carbo)/Infusional 5-FU/Pembrolizumab

### 3) Chemoimmunotherapy (not approved):

Platinum/Pembrolizumab

### 4) Chemoimmunotherapy (not approved):

Platinum/Paclitaxel/Pembrolizumab



# Head and Neck

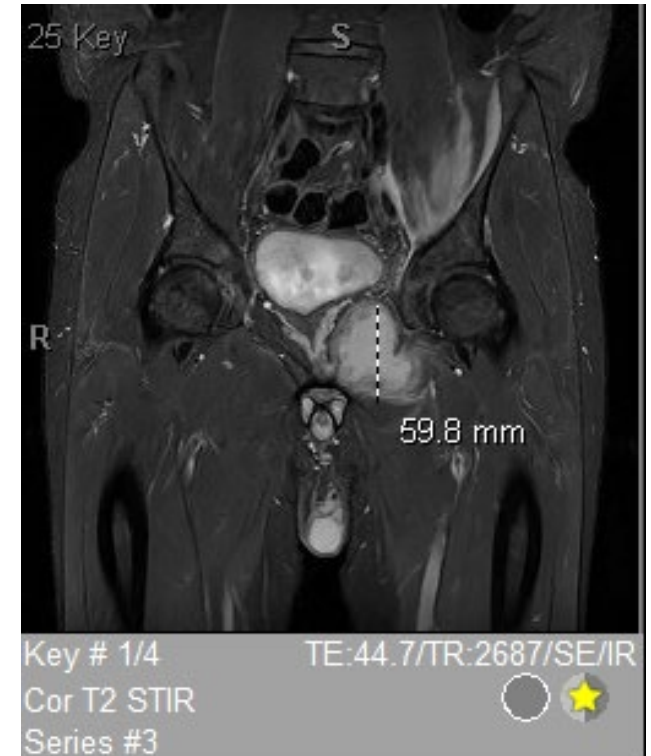
## Metastatic Oral Cavity Cancer

He was able to join a clinical trial but came off trial due to travel  
Trial had used pembrolizumab as a backbone so continued  
Pembro.

6 months later, developed back/leg pain = sciatica

MRI: 6.2cm lytic lesion in left pubic ramus/pubis with  
large soft tissue necrotic mass.

Declines chemotherapy – continue pembrolizumab and started  
on Denosumab therapy



# Head and Neck

## Metastatic Oral Cavity Cancer

Risks of Osteoradionecrosis?

Other Supportive Care options (c/o anorexia)

# Head and Neck

## Metastatic Oral Cavity Cancer

He completed radiation therapy to hip but slowly had a diminishing performance status and went on hospice.

# Head and Neck

- Panel Pearls and Questions

