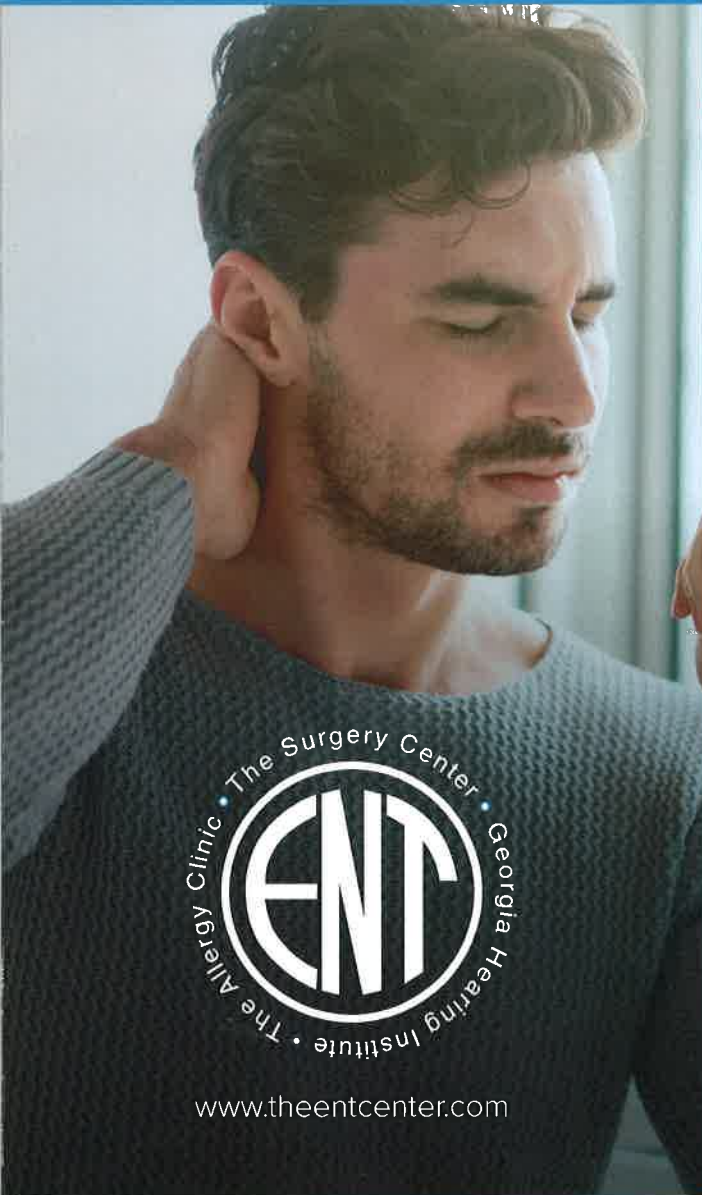


The ENT Center of Central Georgia

Our Doctors Explain: **HEAD & NECK CANCER**



How Is Head & Neck Cancer Treated?

Treatment for head and neck cancers depend upon several factors. The size and location of the tumor, its stage, and your age and health must all be taken into consideration.

Our team will make a decision based on these unique factors. Options might include surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, targeted therapy or a combination of the above.

Surgery specific, because cancers of the head and neck frequently spread to the lymph nodes in the neck, a procedure known as a "neck dissection" is often performed to remove lymph nodes that may contain cancer.



www.theentcenter.com



What Is Head & Neck Cancer?

Head and neck cancers are those that grow in and around the throat, larynx, nose, sinuses and mouth. The majority of these cancers are squamous cell carcinomas that form in the cells lining the mucosal surfaces of the head and neck. They often spread to the lymph nodes but are highly curable if discovered early.

Head and neck cancers are classified according to the area in the body where they form, which include the larynx, oral cavity, salivary glands, pharynx and nasal cavity.

The biggest risk factors for head and neck cancers are tobacco (both cigarettes and chewing tobacco) and alcohol, especially when used together. Eighty-five percent of head and neck cancers are linked to tobacco.

Other risk factors include exposure to industrial toxins (e.g., wood dust, paint fumes), dietary factors, human papillomavirus, Epstein-Barr virus, gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), asbestos exposure and radiation.

What Are the Symptoms of Head & Neck Cancer?

Symptoms of head and neck cancers are similar to those associated with other conditions and may seem harmless at first. Common signs include a lump or sore that doesn't heal, persistent sore throat, difficulty swallowing and hoarseness.

Other symptoms you may experience include bleeding from the mouth, swelling of the jaw, frequent congestion, sinus infections that don't respond to treatment, headaches, earaches, facial numbness or paralysis, enlarged lymph nodes and an unexplained loss of weight.

How Is Head & Neck Cancer Diagnosed?

Your doctor will ask a series of questions about symptoms—how long they've been present—conduct a thorough physical examination, including the ears, nose and throat.

As with other types of cancers, your doctor will also conduct a series of imaging and biopsy tests to accurately diagnose your specific type of cancer in the head and neck spectrum.

Head and Neck Cancer Prevention

- If you smoke or use other tobacco products, talk with your doctor to get help quitting.
- If you drink alcohol, do so in moderation.
- Protect yourself against HPV infection by practicing safe sex and getting the HPV vaccine (anyone under 40 is eligible.)



About the ENT Center of Central Georgia

The ENT Center of Central Georgia brings together the very best physicians and support staff dedicated to providing you an exceptional patient experience. In our pursuit to provide excellence in medical treatment, we listen to our patients and focus on their symptoms. We develop individualized treatment plans based on your unique needs and treat you like we would a family member. Whether you have hearing problems, allergies, dizziness, sinus infections, snoring, or any other ear, nose, and throat related problem, we can help.

For more information, contact one of the elite health care professionals at The ENT Center of Central Georgia today: 1-800-253-8953

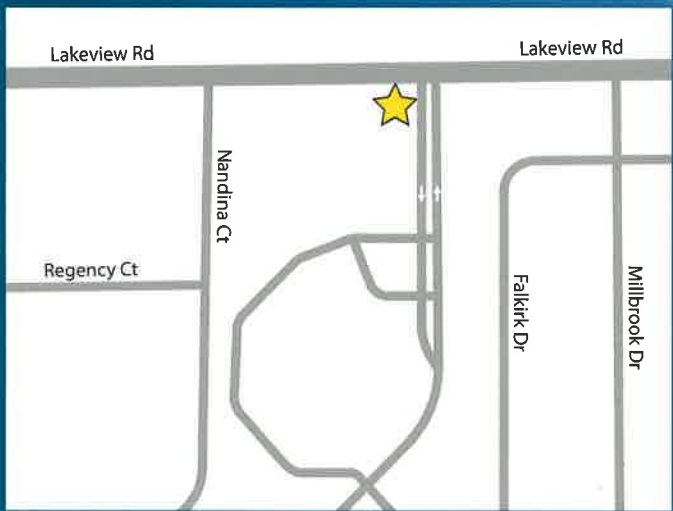


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