

PATIENT INFORMATION

Head and Neck Cancer Speech and Language Therapy Service

Speech and Language Therapy Department
Crow Thorne Therapies Centre
Torbay Hospital
Lowes Bridge
Torquay
TQ2 7AA

Tel: 01803 654949

The Head and Neck Cancer Speech and Language Therapy service at Torbay Hospital offer advice and support for patients who are having/ have had treatments for head and neck cancer. This can include lips, tongue, cheek, jaw, salivary glands, tonsils, soft palate, throat and the neck. Treatments can be surgical or oncological (chemotherapy/ chemoradiotherapy / radiotherapy).

Cancer to the head and neck causes short and long term side effects that can affect a person's ability to speak clearly produce voice and swallow normally. Speech and Language Therapists (SLT's) will support patients with these needs and offer management to maximise recovery following treatment. SLTs are responsible for assessment, intervention planning and management of every individual's communication and/ or swallowing difficulties. SLTs will also be part of coordinated local support teams in order to provide long-term support and rehabilitation for individuals in the community.

SLTs are an integral part of a multi-disciplinary team (MDT) working with patients with head and neck cancer. We provide support to patients prior to treatment; whilst having their treatment, and for any long term speech, swallowing or voice needs, including those patients who become palliative.

SLTs have expertise in assessment and rehabilitation of communication and/ or swallowing difficulties, laryngectomy rehabilitation, tracheostomy management, palliative care and research. We provide specialist instrumental swallow assessment including videofluoroscopy (an X-ray of swallowing) and fiberoptic endoscopic evaluation of swallowing (FEES).

Head and neck cancer patients who are under the care of a consultant at Torbay hospital are welcome to refer themselves to this service.

Your local Head and Neck Cancer Speech and Language Therapists are:

Sam Gregory and Sarah Thomas.

Useful Links:

Macmillan www.macmillan.org.uk

The National Association of Laryngectomees www.laryngectomy.org.uk

The Swallows Head and Neck Cancer Support Group www.theswallows.org.uk

For further assistance or to receive this information in a different format, please contact the department which created this leaflet.