Head and neck cancer

Recognising head and neck cancer
First steps – diagnosis to treatment

World class cancer care delivered locally
Canopy Cancer Care is a leading private clinic for adult cancer patients. Our team specialises in the care of patients requiring cancer treatment. The Canopy vision is to offer New Zealanders the option of world class cancer care, delivered locally. Every day and with every patient we work towards this goal.

The Canopy team has been providing an international standard of care for over eight years. During this time we have built a strong team who are all passionate about our patients and the outcomes that matter to them most.

**We have world class facilities located in**
- Epsom, Auckland
- Takapuna, Auckland
- Tauranga, Bay of Plenty
- and now also in Whangarei, Northland

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**An online news channel for the cancer community**
Canopy TV aims to provide interesting and topical information to cancer patients and their families, increase people’s understanding of cancer and showcase interesting clinical developments in cancer treatment.

[www.canopycancercare.co.nz/canopytv](http://www.canopycancercare.co.nz/canopytv)

**A toolkit of evidence based complementary therapies**
Under the Canopy gives patients access to relevant non-medical services as they need them either during or after chemotherapy or other oncology treatments.

Services include physio, oncology massage, diet and nutrition advice and exercise support.

[www.canopycancercare.co.nz/underthecanopy](http://www.canopycancercare.co.nz/underthecanopy)
What is head and neck cancer?

**Head and neck cancer** is a range of cancers that start in the head and neck of the body. This region includes the mouth, nose, tongue, palate, jaw, throat (pharynx), larynx, tonsils, sinuses, salivary glands or thyroid.

The most common head and neck cancer is basal cell cancer of the skin. Squamous cell cancer and malignant melanoma, also occur on the skin of the face and neck. Many squamous cell cancers occur on the lower lip and ear.

Incidence and survival rates

In New Zealand there are approximately **520** new cases of head and neck cancer registered annually. *(Ministry of Health 2013)*

The **5-year** survival rate is approximately **60%**.

Potential risk factors

- Alcohol
- Smoking
- Viruses – HPV especially HPV16
- Exposure to EBV

Other risk factors

- Older age
- Male
- Family history
- Chemical exposure at work
- Lowered immunity
- Sun exposure

Signs and symptoms

- A lump in your neck
- Change or hoarseness in your voice including dysarthria
- A growth in your mouth
- Dysphagia and Odynophagia
- Changes in your skin
- Otalgia

Treatment

- Surgery
- Radiotherapy
- Chemotherapy or a combination of above
- Targeted therapies eg: Cetuximab
- Immunotherapy eg: Pembrolizumab
Why choose Canopy?

**Quick appointment times**
- our target is to have our patients seen by a Specialist within 7 days.

**The highest professional standards**
- comes from selecting only highly experienced and dedicated Specialists, nurses and support staff.

**Personalised treatment plans**
- by professionals committed to delivering quality care, patient experience and outcomes.

**Global sourcing of therapies**
- we will reach across the globe to ensure patients have access to the most effective drug therapies.

**Individualised patient care program**
- with a focus on outcomes that matter to patients, the Under the Canopy program has been specifically designed to support patients navigate their personal cancer journey as comfortably as possible.

**Purpose designed treatment clinics**
- ensuring a calm and relaxed healing environment.

**Canopy TV**
- an online news channel for the cancer community.

**Specialist on call 24/7**
- for complete peace of mind.

**Evidence based care and external accreditation**
- to ensure we are delivering world class care and treatment options.
Canopy Cancer Care head and neck tumour team

The Canopy head and neck cancer team is made up of internationally regarded medical oncologists Dr Laird Cameron and Osama Salih. Their overseas training has provided them with cutting edge experience in head and neck cancer in the fields of research, education and patient care.

Drs Richard North and Michelle Head also have a special interest in this field supporting patients in the Bay of Plenty region.

The specialist head and neck cancer nurse is Karen Nolan who brings a wealth of experience to the role.

If you have an adult or young adult patient with a head and neck cancer seeking treatment options and symptom management, please contact Canopy Cancer Care with a referral to the head and neck cancer team.

Canopy specialises in the care of patients requiring cancer treatment with chemotherapy, immunotherapy, antibody therapy, hormone therapy and more targeted therapies.

Meet the Canopy head and neck team

Oncologists

Dr Laird Cameron  
MBChB, FRACP  
Specialties: Lung, Mesothelioma and Head & Neck

Dr Osama Salih  
MBBS, DTM&H, FRACP  
Specialties: Gastro-Intestinal (GI), Gynaecological and Head & Neck

Dr Richard North  
BHB, MBChB, FRACP  
Specialties: Genitourinary, Gastro-Intestinal (GI), Head & Neck, Lung, Lymphoma, Melanoma

Dr Michelle Head  
BHB, MBChB, FRACP  
Specialties: Breast, Head & Neck, Gastro-Intestinal (GI), Lymphoma, Lung, Melanoma

Specialist nurse

Karen Nolan  
Specialist Head and Neck Nurse

Administration support

Dale Tappin  
Scheduler – Auckland and Whangarei

Justine Nathan  
Scheduler – Tauranga
Treatment options and referral options

If you have a patient experiencing the symptoms mentioned, they may need to see a
• Specialist surgeon
Followed by a
• Radiation oncologist and/or medical oncologist

Making a referral is easy

or contact: admin@canopycancercare.co.nz (Auckland and Northland)
or: admintauranga@canopycancercare.co.nz (Tauranga)
or fax: (09) 638 7295 (Auckland and Northland) or fax: (07) 577 0711 (Tauranga)

Canopy Cancer Care locations

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<th>Canopy Epsom</th>
<th>Canopy North Shore</th>
<th>Canopy Tauranga</th>
<th>Canopy Whangarei</th>
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<tr>
<td>98 Mountain Rd</td>
<td>213 Shakespeare Rd</td>
<td>850 Cameron Rd</td>
<td>121 Bank St</td>
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<tr>
<td>Epsom</td>
<td>Takapuna</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auckland 1023</td>
<td>Auckland 0620</td>
<td>Tauranga 3112</td>
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www.canopycancercare.co.nz