

headandneck 5000

Factors that determine health related quality of life one year following the diagnosis of head and neck cancer

Principle applicant: Simon Rogers

Co-applicants : Derek Lowe, Holly Cole-Hawkins, Andrea Waylen

Scientific outline

Abstract: Although there are numerous publications on predictors of health related quality of life (HRQOL) following head and neck cancer (1), Head and Neck 5000 offers an opportunity to analyse a substantial number of patients across many variables. Factors associated with HRQOL outcomes include: clinical (age, gender, site, stage, comorbidity, HPV), demographic (education, socio-economic group), geographical (location in UK and treating unit), life style (smoking, alcohol), treatment (surgery, radiotherapy, chemotherapy), pathological (P stage).

It is expected that individual Units and Centres will have slightly different treatment protocols. These differences allow an opportunity to assess the impact on HRQOL. A better understanding of factors which predict HRQOL outcomes should help shape future treatment strategies and also provide better information for the patient and head and neck team around decision making, and also consideration to targeting interventions.

The Head Neck 5000 study has the unique facility of having collected a substantial number of self-reports HRQOL in a longitudinal cohort from baseline, 4 and 12 months.

The aims are to

1. Describe factors that contribute to HRQOL at baseline
2. Describe clinically meaningful differences from baseline to 4 months to 12 months in HRQOL by clinical, demographic, geographical and life style characteristics.

Specific additional focus will address:

3. Does the treatment centre make a difference to HRQOL?
4. Comparison between surgical versus non surgical approaches accounting for stage and site for example oropharynx.
5. Influence of combination treatments such as surgery alone versus surgery and adjuvant radiotherapy and the addition of chemotherapy.

Anonymous UW-QOL data collated from baseline, four months, and one year will be used.

Reference

1.Handle on QOL. <http://www.handle-on-qol.com>