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Quality of Life following treatment for oropharyngeal carcinoma; a comparison of surgery versus non-surgical therapy

Principle Applicant: Dr Jake Begbie

Co-Applicants: Dr Joanne Patterson, Mr James O'Hara

Scientific Outline

Summary

Patients with oropharyngeal carcinoma (OPSCC) can be treated with radiotherapy +/- chemotherapy (CRT) or surgery, followed by radiotherapy +/- chemotherapy. The survival rates appear similar with either primary modality. Treatment related symptoms may be reduced by offering minimally invasive, transoral surgery (TOS) to appropriate patients.

This study aims to analyse patient- reported quality of life (QoL) outcomes in patients treated for OPSCC, comparing TOS with CRT outcomes. QoL will be measured at pre-treatment, 4 months and 12 months following treatment. A disease staged-matched analysis will be performed to assess QoL in patients treated with TOS compared to those treated with CRT. Repeated measures analysis will be performed and the suitability of propensity score matching will be evaluated.

Keywords: Oropharyngeal carcinoma, human papilloma virus, radiotherapy, chemotherapy, surgery, quality of life.