

# headandneck 5000

**Project Title: Effect of smoking and alcohol cessation on prognosis from head and neck cancer**

**Principal Applicant: Shama Virani**

**Co-Applicants: Mahdi Sheikh IARC, Tom Dudding UoB**

**Summary:**

Smoking, alcohol consumption and infection with human papillomavirus are major risk factors for head and neck cancer, which primarily consist of tumours in the oral cavity, larynx and pharynx. Smoking and alcohol consumption behaviours at baseline are associated with poorer prognosis, as shown in the HN5000 cohort among others. Cessation of smoking and alcohol consumption after diagnosis is promoted due to increased complications from treatment in patients who continue to smoke. The specific impact of continued smoking and alcohol use on prognosis is currently unknown. Here we propose to assess the prognostic impact of patients who continue to drink alcohol or smoke compared to those who quit.