

## Identifying Oral Health Needs and Barriers for Head and Neck Cancer Patients in a Large UK Cohort

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### **Summary:**

Treatment for head and neck cancer involves major surgery and radiotherapy, or a combination of both. This can often result in life-changing physical, psychological and social consequences. The effect on oral (or mouth) health can include pain, changes to voice, taste and swallowing, as well as a higher risk of dental decay. Patients who have head and neck cancer may also face barriers in accessing dental care. To better understand the oral health needs of these patients, we will analyse data from the Head and Neck 5000 study, comparing answers to specific oral health questions at the start of the study and over time following treatment. This will aim to provide further evidence to support better oral health management for high-risk head and neck cancer patients, as part of future management strategies.

**Keywords:** Head and neck cancer, oral health needs, access to dental care, barriers, oral health management