

headandneck 5000

Translational studies of **HEAD** and neck cancer in **South America** and **Europe** (HEADSpAcE)

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Scientific Outline

Summary

Translational Studies of Head and Neck Cancer in South America and Europe (HEADSpAcE) is European Union funded project that brings together a consortium of 15 partner institutions working across nine work-packages to study head and neck cancer.

Worldwide, more than 550 000 new cases of head and neck cancer occur each year, resulting in approximately 300 000 deaths annually. It is the sixth most common cancer in both Europe and South America. A major reason for the high mortality rate of this cancer is the late stage of diagnosis for many patients. Accurate assessment of the prognosis of head and neck cancer facilitates appropriate treatment decisions.

HEADSpAcE aims to identify reasons for late diagnosis and reduce the proportion of head and neck cancers that are diagnosed at a late stage. The project also aims to identify the most appropriate method of diagnosing cancer caused by human papillomavirus (HPV), and to identify strong genomic predictors of prognosis that will have the potential to improve care and reduce treatment-related morbidity. The project team will also develop guidelines for implementation in clinical care.

HEADSpAcE is co-ordinated by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), the specialized cancer agency of the World Health Organization.

Head and neck 5000 will contribute: clinical, pathological and epidemiological expertise, risk factor and longitudinal data for pooled analyses, tissue blocks for genetic and epigenetic analysis, DNA extracted from blood for further germline genotyping and genome wide association studies.

Key words

Head and neck cancer, germline and tumour genetics, epigenetics, human papillomavirus