



## Signs And Symptoms Of Head And Neck Cancer

	Name of Sign/Symptom	Description of symptom	Type of Head and Neck Cancer they are found
	A sore or spot	<p>There is a pink lump with hard scaly surface. It can bleed and can form ulcers.</p> <p>Other symptoms are itching and mole growth</p> <p>Ulcers are a break into the skin or mucous lining that fails to heal and form inflammation.</p>	<p>Ear (flap and canal)</p> <p>Tongue</p> <p>Mouth</p> <p>Oropharynx</p> <p>Lips</p> <p>Salivary glands</p> <p>Throat</p>
<b>Symptoms of the Ear</b>	Ear pain (otalgia) or pressure	<p><i>Local causes:</i></p> <p>Pain due to inflammation (otitis)</p> <p>Otitis externa affects ear drum and ear opening (external auditory meatus)</p> <p>Myringitis – inflammation of ear drum</p> <p><i>Diseases/conditions:</i></p> <p>Jaw</p> <p>Joints</p> <p>Neck /Throat</p> <p>Teeth</p>	<p>Ear (inner, middle, ear canal)</p> <p>Tongue</p> <p>Tonsils</p> <p>Mouth</p> <p>Nose (nasal and paranasal)</p> <p>Throat</p> <p>Larynx</p> <p>Pharynx (oropharynx, hypopharynx)</p>

	Otitis media	This is commonly caused by bacteria or viral infection that cause inflammation of the middle ear.	nasopharynx
	Hearing loss or problems	A build-up of fluid in the middle ear causes this symptom.	Ear (inner, middle) Tongue Pharynx (nasopharynx)
	Tinnitus	Ringing noise in the ears and head caused by misinterpretation of signals in the brain. It can affect the inner ear (cochlea and auditory nerve).	Inner ear nasopharynx
<b>Symptoms of the brain</b>	Cranial nerve palsy base of skull invasion	There are 12 cranial nerves and this condition arises because of limited or no function in one or more of these nerves.	Nasopharynx
	Dizziness	This is a range of feeling lightheaded, faint, weak and vertigo.  Vertigo is when the surrounding area is spinning.	Inner ear
	Headache	Pain is felt deep in the skull.  Stress and fatigue are amongst the main causes.	Inner ear Nose Paranasal Pharynx nasopharynx
<b>Mobility issues</b>	Neck pain or discomfort	Neck pain can be felt because of age, sleeping position, accidently, family history, injury of neck muscles and cancer in the head and neck.	Pharynx Throat

	Paralysis	<p>Muscle weakness in the face and neck and depends on severity of nerves.</p> <p>Pain in the bones can cause weakness.</p>	<p>Ear (middle, ear canal)</p> <p>Paranasal</p> <p>Nose</p> <p>Salivary glands</p>
	Numbness	Partial loss of sensation caused by irritation, pressure (compression) and nerve damage	<p>Mouth</p> <p>Salivary glands</p>
<b>Haematological symptoms</b>	Swollen lymph nodes(lump) or enlargement (lymphadenopathy)	<p>The lumps can commonly occur in the neck and surrounding areas like the face and head.</p> <p>Commonly caused by microbes (bacteria, viruses, and fungi)</p> <p>Autoimmune diseases (conditions when the immune system attacks the body)</p> <p>Cancer</p>	<p>Inner ear</p> <p>Tongue</p> <p>Tonsils</p> <p>Mouth</p> <p>Pharynx (oropharynx, nasopharynx, hypopharynx)</p> <p>Nose</p> <p>Paranasal</p> <p>Salivary glands (painless)</p> <p>Throat</p>
	Discharge	<p>A release of substances from the organ mainly fluid. Normal discharge has no smell (odourless) and clear.</p> <p>Pathological discharge has a change in colour, smell, texture and may also contain blood.</p>	<p>Middle Ear</p> <p>Paranasal</p> <p>Nasal</p>

	Bleeding (haemorrhage)	<p>Loss of blood from a damaged blood vessel.</p> <p>The blood can be externally or internally.</p>	<p>Ear canal</p> <p>Tongue</p> <p>Tonsils</p> <p>Mouth</p> <p>Nose</p> <p>Paranasal</p> <p>Nasopharynx</p>
<b>Symptoms of the eye</b>	Swollen conjunctiva (chemosis)	<p>Swelling (oedema) due to inflammation or if there is obstruction or damage to the drainage of blood and lymph.</p> <p>The conjunctive is a thin membrane that lines the eyelid and front of the eye.</p> <p>Lots of blood vessels in the eyelid area.</p> <p>A few blood vessels in the eyeball that are transparent.</p> <p>Pain above and below the eye.</p>	<p>Nose</p> <p>Paranasal</p>
	Watery eyes (epiphora)	<p>Overproduction of tears or poor drainage. It can cause soreness, blurred vision, and irritation.</p> <p>Common causes are: Allergies</p> <p>Infections</p> <p>Blocked ducts of the tears</p>	<p>Nose</p> <p>Paranasal</p>
	Bulging eyes (proptosis)	Forward displacement due to damage to eyeball or socket	Nasal paranasal
	Complete or partial loss of sight (blindness)	Limited or lack of light perception	Nose Paranasal

	Double vision (diplopia)	Awareness of two images in one object.  Limiting movement of one eye so the two eyes cannot see it at same time.  Damaged nerve or eye muscles	Nose  Paranasal
	Sore throat (pharyngitis)	Inflammation behind the soft palate in the pharynx area.	Tongue  Tonsils  Mouth/oral  Oropharynx
<b>Symptoms of the mouth</b>	Pain or burning on the tongue	Sensational pain in the area	Tongue
	Hoarse voice (dysphonia)	A low, raspy voice commonly caused by the inflammation or irritation of the vocal cords.  Difficulty to produce voice	Tonsils.  Larynx  hypopharynx
	Difficulty with tongue/Speech (dysarthria)	Speech disorder and unclear pronunciation despite language and meaning appear normal.	Tongue  Mouth  Pharynx (oropharynx)
	Swollen jaw or lining of the mouth	Appearance of a lump or swelling making it appear larger and stiff than normal.	Mouth  Nasal  Paranasal  Salivary glands
	Patches  Red (erythroplakia) or white (leukoplakia)	These are patches that appear on the tongue and/or gums.  Erythroplakia – red patches or lesions on the mucous membranes associated with	Tongue  Mouth  Oropharynx  Throat

		<p>epithelial dysplasia. Adjacent to normal mucosa,</p> <p>Dysplasia is the abnormal development of the lining [epithelium]. A precancerous condition.</p> <p>Leukoplakia epithelial hyperplasia and hyperparakeratosis.</p> <p>Hyperparakeratosis: A build-up of keratin protein on the outer layer of the skin</p> <p>Leukoplakia is commonly caused by smoking, alcohol, or weak immune system.</p>	Gums
	Pain or difficulty swallowing (odynophagia)	<p>Pain behind the sternum (breastbone) as food or fluid swallowed.</p> <p>A burning pain.</p>	<p>Tongue</p> <p>Tonsils</p> <p>Pharynx (oropharynx, hypopharynx)</p> <p>Lips</p> <p>Salivary glands</p> <p>Supraglottis (larynx)</p> <p>mouth</p>
	Difficulty opening mouth/ moving jaw	<p>Noises may be heard like popping, clicking, or grating when moving the jaw. It may appear on one or bow sides.</p> <p>Pain or soreness may be experienced when waking up or in evening.</p> <p>Temporomandibular disorder (TMD)</p>	<p>Lips</p> <p>Mouth</p> <p>teeth</p> <p>Pharynx</p> <p>Salivary glands</p>

	Thick lips	The lips can appear swollen, inflamed, or cracked.	Lips
<b>Dental symptoms</b>	Loss of teeth for unknown reason		Teeth Paranasal Nasal
	Bad breath (halitosis)	It is commonly associated with hygiene, food, smoking and dry mouth	Mouth Oropharynx Lips
	Tooth pain		Teeth
	Weight loss		Tongue Pharynx (oropharynx) mouth
<b>Symptoms of the nose</b>	Blockage		Nose Paranasal nasopharynx
	Lack of smell		Nose Paranasal
	Draining of mucus	This can occur into the back of nose or throat.  There may be appearance of blood	Nose Paranasal Throat
<b>Respiratory symptoms</b>	Breathing difficulties (dyspnoea)	Obstruction to flow of air in and out of lungs.	Pharynx Larynx

	Persistent coughing	Tough exhalation fur to irritant in the air ways. Cough reflexes cause closure the glottis (larynx) with a build up of high expiratory pressure and released suddenly.	larynx
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