Oracle Cancer Trust

The UK’s leading head and neck cancer research charity

### About Oracle Cancer Trust

Founded in 1979 at The Royal Marsden Hospital in London, Oracle Cancer Trust is the UK’s leading charity dedicated to funding head and neck cancer research.

Over the past five years, Oracle has spent over £1.5m on world class cancer research at the UK’s leading research institutions. (\*2018 figure) [www.oraclecancertrust.org/research/researchsuccesses](http://www.oraclecancertrust.org/research/researchsuccesses)

Oracle focuses its funding on projects with the potential to have the greatest impact on patients, whether through improving patient survival rates or reducing the side-effects of treatments.

Oracle currently funds 13 head and neck cancer research projects at The Institute of Cancer Research; The Royal Marsden Hospital, London; Queen Mary’s University, London and Bart’s NHS Trust; and Oxford and Newcastle upon Tyne University Hospitals. (\*May 2018 figures).

Oracle is a small charity with a large impact. Oracle receives no UK government or overseas funding, and is entirely reliant on the generosity of donors and fundraisers to do its vital work.

### About Head and Neck Cancer

Head and neck cancer is now the sixth most common cancer in the UK. Every 35 minutes another person in the UK is diagnosed with head and neck cancer.

Since the 1970’s, there has been a 90% increase in cases of head and neck cancer particularly in the under 50’s age group. Head and neck cancers are now the fastest growing cancers in the UK.

Head and neck cancer patients often suffer difficulties with taste, swallowing and speaking following treatment. These side-effects can severely impact patients’ long-term quality of life.

Despite this, head and neck cancer research receives substantially less funding and awareness than other cancer types – 40% less research funding per patient than breast cancer. (\*2016 figures)

Oracle is committed to closing that gap.

Thanks to Oracle’s funded research projects, developments in surgery, radiotherapy, and targeted therapies have helped to improve treatments and reduce the number of head and neck cancer patients suffering with treatment-related side-effects. <https://www.oraclecancertrust.org/research/researchsuccesses>

Oracle: Key Facts and Figures

The UK’s leading research charity into head and neck cancer.

**Oracle’s Objective**

Oracle’s mission is to fund pioneering head and neck cancer research to support the discoveries that will lead to improved treatments for patients.

**About Head and Neck Cancer**

* Head and neck cancer is a broad term which covers over 30 different tumour types in the head and neck including mouth, laryngeal, salivary gland and thyroid cancers. Mouth cancer is the most common type of head and neck cancer.
* Every day in the UK, 40 people are diagnosed with head and neck cancer. That’s one person diagnosed every 35 minutes. Every day, nine people die from head and neck cancer. (2014)
* Cases of head and neck cancer have increased by 90% since the late 1970’s. Head and neck cancers are now the fastest growing cancers in the UK.
* Head and neck cancer is now the sixth most common cancer nationally and globally. (2014)
* 69% of head and neck cancer cases in the UK in 2014 were diagnosed in men.
* Head and neck cancers are visible cancers. The cancers and current treatments can affect the senses, voice and face. Patients can lose the ability to taste, to swallow or to speak.
* Head and neck patients are more likely to suffer from depression than other cancer patients.
* Head and neck cancer is little talked-about and receives substantially less funding than other cancer types – 40% less research funding per patient than breast cancer. Since 2013, the proportion of site-specific cancer research funding from major UK funders going to head and neck cancer has reduced yearly to only 2.6% in 2016. This makes Oracle’s work vital.

About Oracle

* Oracle is the UK’s leading charity dedicated to funding head and neck cancer research.
* Oracle funds world class research that will help to detect and diagnose head and neck cancers sooner and make treatments better and kinder for patients.
* Oracle funds pioneering cancer research projects at the UK’s leading research institutions including The Institute of Cancer Research and Royal Marsden Hospital in London.
* Oracle funds research into all types of head and neck cancer.
* Oracle is a small- to medium-sized charity. Oracle keeps its overheads at a minimum to maximise the amount it can dedicated to pioneering head and neck cancer research.
* Oracle has a history of funding successful research which has improved prospects for patients – read more at <https://oraclecancertrust.org/research/researchsuccesses/>For example, thanks to Oracle funded research, the number of patients suffering with the side-effect of dry mouth after radiotherapy treatment was reduced by 54%.
* Oracle receives no government funding and relies on donors to carry out its vital work.