

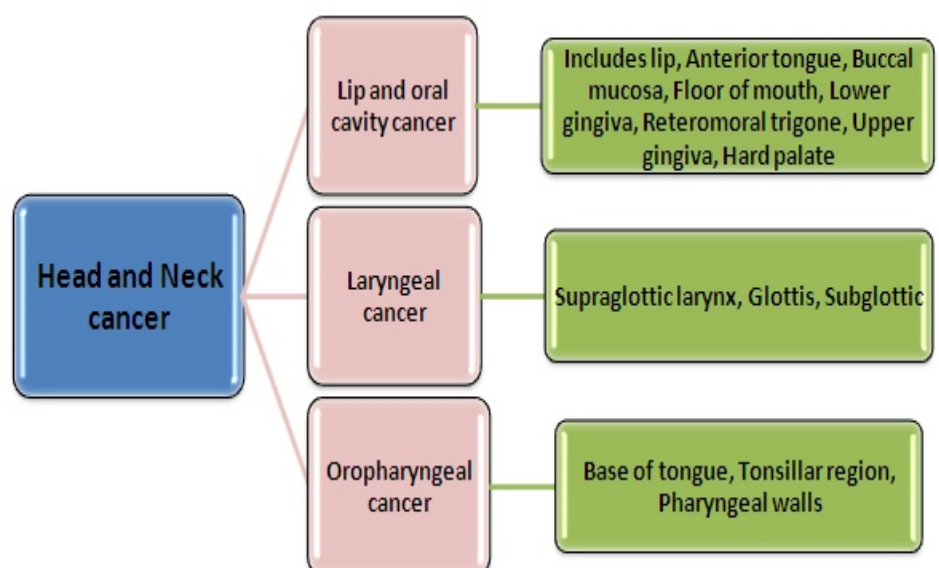
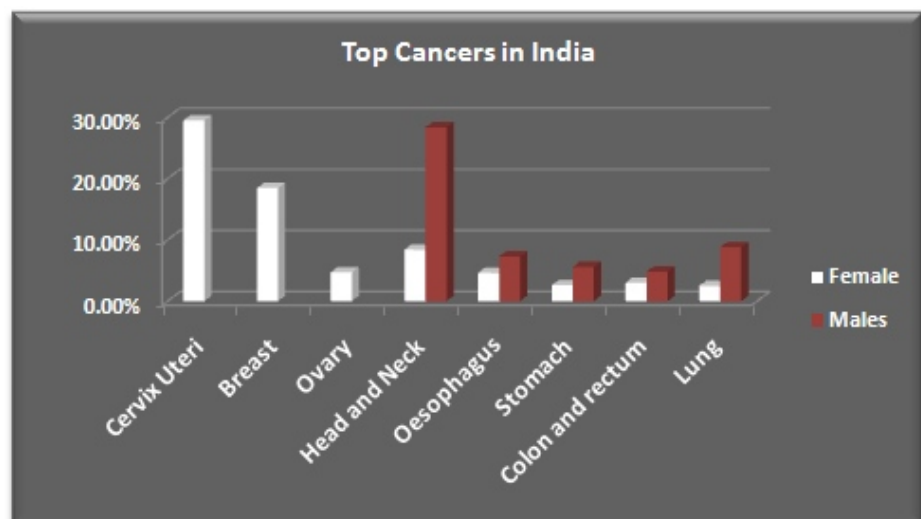


# Head and Neck Cancer in India

Cancer is a leading health problem in India, with approximately 1 million cases occurring each year. Over 200,000 cases of head and neck cancer occur each year in India versus 30,000 for the US. Cancer accounts for 8% of the deaths in India.

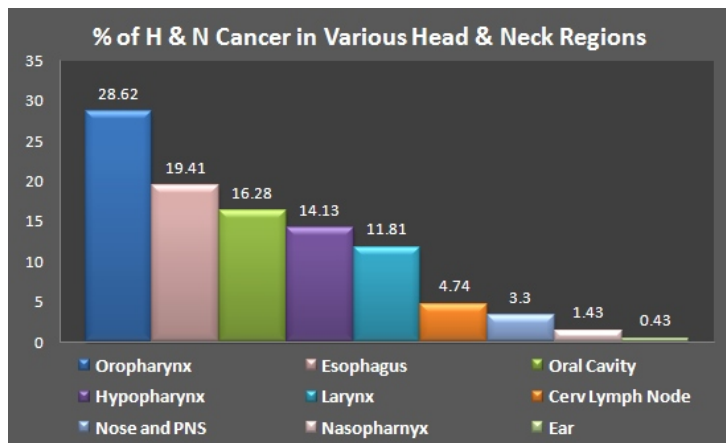
The increasing number of head and neck cancer cases is a cause of major concern as it is associated with high morbidity and mortality. Factors involved are poor socioeconomic condition, oral consumption of tobacco in its various forms, use of lime with betel-leaf and betel-nuts, alcohol and smoking habits. Over one third of all cancers in India occur in the head and neck compared to less than 10% in the Western world and 4% in the USA. The primary reason for this unusually high incidence of head and neck cancer in India is the indiscriminate use of chewing tobacco in its various forms. In tobacco users, the oral cavity bears the brunt of the carcinogen and nearly 80,000 – 100,000 oral cancers are diagnosed every year in the country.

Head and neck cancer includes many different malignancies. According to various studies, the prevalence of head and neck cancer with respect to total body malignancies ranges from 9.8% to 42.7%. The most common head and neck cancer is oropharyngeal carcinoma (28.6%) followed by esophageal and oral cavity cancers (19.4%) and (16.3%), respectively. Carcinoma of the ear is the least common (0.4%).



With respect to oral cavity and oropharynx the most common site of involvement is the tongue (32.7%). Carcinoma of the cheek and tonsils accounted for more than 20% of oral cavity malignancies.

In looking at gender distribution, males develop head and neck cancer significantly more frequently, with the ratio of almost 3:1 compared to females. Oropharyngeal cancer is common in males while esophageal cancer is more common in females.



### Histopathological pattern - Head and Neck cancer in India

Squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) is the most frequent histological type in head and neck cancer (93.3%) cases, followed by verrucous carcinoma (1.5%) cases. Laryngeal and hypopharyngeal are almost exclusively SCC (100% and 99%, respectively). In cancers of the oral cavity, verrucous carcinoma comprised approximately 1.5% of the cases with the remainder SCC.

### Head and Neck trials in India statistics

Head and Neck Cancer Trials in India	
Particulars	Count
Phase 1 trials	1
Phase 2 trials	8
Phase 3 trials	1
Phase 1 & 2 trials	1
Phase 2 & 3 trials	2
Total trials (Head and Neck)	14
No of Investigator involved	34
No of Sites	27

### Sample Site Profile

In India, a variety of sites exist that participate in clinical trials - academic institutions, private/corporate multi-specialty hospitals, government-aided research centers and super specialty cancer hospitals. For most oncology studies, our experience suggests that using a combination of sites is the most successful for a study. Academic institutions offer large patient pools; on the other hand, private hospitals are much quicker to open. Investigational sites are spread across India with the majority in metropolitan areas. Almost all of the investigators have been trained in the West and are well-versed in Good Clinical Practices (GCPs)

An example of a cancer site with extensive GCP trial experience is a Mumbai-based national comprehensive cancer center for the prevention, treatment, education and research in oncology. This hospital is recognized as one of the leading cancer centers in Asia. Almost 30,000 new patients per year are registered in this hospital from all over India and neighboring countries for the cancer treatment. Over 1,000 patients per day are treated in the outpatient department for medical advice, comprehensive care or follow-up treatment.

Evidence-based medicine is the cornerstone of the clinical programs. In addition, clinical research programs and randomized clinical trials contribute increasingly to improved delivery of care. In line with recent advances in information technology, the hospital in Mumbai has established comprehensive computerization of medical records, material management and administration, and also improved communication via electronic mail and Internet facilities.

The site also has a 50 bed exclusive research facility for basic and clinical research in oncology. More than 100 clinical trials and research projects have been conducted over the last five years.

In conclusion, India is an ideal location to conduct studies in head and neck cancer. They have the infrastructure, patient population and experience to conduct quality clinical trials in head and neck cancer. If you would like more information, please contact us.



For additional inquiries or questions, please contact:

Veeda Oncology – US  
Tel: +1 (0)614 643 1480 | info@veedaoncology.com

Veeda Oncology – Europe  
Tel: +32 (0)2 465 76 50 | info@veedaoncology.com

Veeda Oncology – India  
Tel: +91 (0)22 3003 3000 | info@veedaoncology.com

