

Disclaimer: This algorithm has been developed for MD Anderson using a multidisciplinary approach considering circumstances particular to MD Anderson's specific patient population, services and structure, and clinical information. This is not intended to replace the independent medical or professional judgment of physicians or other health care providers in the context of individual clinical circumstances to determine a patient's care. This algorithm should not be used to treat pregnant women.

ELIGIBILITY

- Patient presents:
- A minimum of 30 months post treatment for nasopharynx cancer **and**
 - Treated at MD Anderson **and**
 - Has one post-treatment MRI head and neck **and**
 - NED

CONCURRENT COMPONENTS OF VISIT

SURVEILLANCE

- History and physical exam within 6-12 months of transition to HNSVC with:
 - Nasopharyngoscopy and otoscopy
 - Chest x-ray
 - MRI (or CT, per baseline imaging study) head and neck if less than 5 years from end of treatment, **then**
- History and physical exam annually with:
 - Nasopharyngoscopy and otoscopy
 - Chest x-ray
 - MRI (or CT, per baseline imaging study) head and neck through 5 years from end of treatment

MONITORING FOR LATE EFFECTS

- Consider:
- Annual audiogram
 - Xerostomia assessment
 - Dental/osteoradionecrosis assessment
 - Neurocognitive dysfunction assessment
 - Annual fasting labs (draw at 8 a.m.) for pituitary function¹ if treated with radiation therapy
 - Dysphagia assessment
 - Speech pathology assessment
 - Lymphedema assessment
 - Sexual health/fertility assessment
 - Peripheral neuropathy assessment

RISK REDUCTION/EARLY DETECTION

- Patient education, counseling and screening:
- Lifestyle risk assessment²
 - Cancer screening³
 - Vaccination⁴ as appropriate
 - HPV vaccination as clinically indicated (see [HPV Vaccination algorithm](#))
 - Screening for Hepatitis B and C as clinically indicated (see [Hepatitis Screening and Management – HBV and HCV algorithm](#))
 - Consider cardiovascular risk reduction⁵
 - Limit alcohol consumption

PSYCHOSOCIAL FUNCTIONING

- Assess for:
- Distress management (see [Distress Screening and Psychosocial Management algorithm](#))
 - Anxiety/depression
 - Body image
 - Social support
 - Financial stressors

DISPOSITION

New primary or recurrent cancer?

Yes
No

Return to primary treating physician

Continue survivorship monitoring

Refer or consult as indicated

NED = no evidence of disease

HNSVC = Head and Neck Survivorship clinic

¹ Pituitary labs to include prolactin, IGF-1 (insulin-like growth factor-1), total T3, free T4, thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH), follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH), estradiol (for women), total testosterone (for men), and total cortisol

² See [Physical Activity](#), [Nutrition](#), and [Tobacco Cessation](#) algorithms; ongoing reassessment of lifestyle risks should be a part of routine clinical practice

³ Includes [breast](#), [cervical](#) (if appropriate), [colorectal](#), [liver](#), [lung](#), [pancreatic](#), [prostate](#), and [skin cancer](#) screening

⁴ Based on [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) guidelines](#)

⁵ Consider use of Vanderbilt's [ABCDE's approach to cardiovascular health](#)

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SUGGESTED READINGS

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DEVELOPMENT CREDITS

This survivorship algorithm is based on majority expert opinion of the Head and Neck Survivorship work group at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. It was developed using a multidisciplinary approach that included input from the following:

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