



HEAD AND NECK CANCER INTERNATIONAL GROUP NEWSLETTER

THIS ISSUE

Welcome from the Chair
Subcommittee updates
HNCIG Guidelines
Annual Meeting
HNCIG Board and
Subcommittee members

HNCIG NEWS

**Lancet Oncology
publishes four-part head
and neck series by HNCIG**

[Click here for articles](#)

READ MORE PAGE 2

HNCIG 2024 Annual Meeting

**SEE PAGE 2 FOR
DETAILS**



**Extranodal extension
consensus guidelines**

PAGES 5-6

HNCIG Website:

<https://www.hncig.org/>

Follow the HNCIG twitter feed:

@H_N_C_I_G

HNCIG newsletter editors:

Dr Lachlan McDowell and

Dr Christina Henson

A Joint Meeting of the Head and Neck Cancer InterGroup
and the Hellenic Society of Head and Neck Cancer



Head and Neck Cancer International Meeting

Save the date

1-2 | NOVEMBER | 2024

"Alkis Argyriadis" Amphitheatre
University of Athens, Greece



www.hnc2024.gr

Click here to register: <https://hnc2024.gr/>

From the HNCIG

Chair

Dr Hisham Mehanna, Chair



The committees at HNCIG have been busy in these last two quarters. As a result, there has been a slew of manuscripts that have been submitted and accepted.

Most notably, Lancet Oncology is going to publish a four-part series of articles produced by the HNCIG committees: Two are recommendations for extranodal extension on Pathology and extranodal extension on Radiology. The other two are on the consensus endpoints for clinical trials on locally advanced and recurrent metastatic head and neck cancer.

This is the first ever series on head and neck cancer that Lancet Oncology has published, and personally I am very proud of all the people and teams who have worked so hard to firstly design and then deliver the great work that has gone into the manuscripts.

I would encourage you all to participate in the work of the Committees - the more collaboration we have, the more outputs we can produce for the benefit of our patients and community.



Database

Dr Pablo Parente and

Dr Sujith Baliga

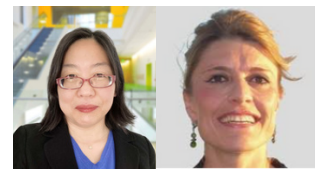
The database committee completed the Delphi consensus project on essential data variables to be included for a minimum dataset for head and neck cancer trials and clinical research. The consensus paper was recently published in the European Journal of Cancer and the paper is available as an open access article at the link below.

[https://linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrieve/pii/S0959-8049\(24\)00694-4](https://linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrieve/pii/S0959-8049(24)00694-4)

After this publication, our team has worked closely with the Birmingham team (Mohamed Ahmed and Ahmad Abou-Foul) in order to integrate these data variables into an online Redcap database that could be used as a research backbone for future HNCIG trials. This Redcap database has now been completed and we are currently evaluating its usability before future implementation in HNCIG. We aim to make this Redcap database public access in the future.

Guidelines & Protocols

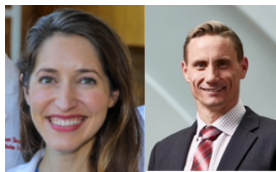
**Dr Sue Yom and
Dr Juliette Thariat**



The HNCIG G&P Committee is pleased to announce that its project to harmonise clinical trials endpoints in head and neck cancer clinical trials has resulted in two papers, both of which have been published as part of the Lancet Oncology series. The Committee is currently working on a number of other consensus projects, including an RTQA consensus project and a consensus project for the management of Merkel cell carcinoma. Additionally, the G&P Committee has been working on developing standardized processes for new projects. What a productive year! The HNCIG would like to commend the members' hard work.

[Click for curative endpoints article](#)

[Click for recurrent/metastatic endpoints article](#)



Young Investigators

**Dr Christina Henson and
Dr Lachlan McDowell**

The HNCIG YI subcommittee is in full swing - we have welcomed several new members from the global head and neck cancer community including Dr Sharon Poh and Dr Natascha Putri from Singapore, Dr Pedro De Marchi from LACOG, Dr Francesca Caparotti and Dr Pierluigi Bonomo from the EORTC YI group, Dr Anna Lee and Dr Trisha Wise-Draper from USA/NRG, Dr Camilla Kjær Lønkvist from DAHANCA and Dr Sweet Ping Ng and Dr Rahul Ladwa from Australia.

The YI subcommittee has developed a survey on patterns of care in oligometastatic disease, led by Dr Monali Swain and Dr Petr Szturz in collaboration with Dr Sarbani Ghosh-Laskar from Tata Memorial Centre. This survey was completed by over 200 respondents, and manuscript is currently under review. Dr. Swain will present the results at the HNCIG 2024 Annual Meeting.

The YI is also working hard to improve the visibility of the HNCIG through Twitter - and have appointed Social Media Ambassadors to assist at international and national meetings. We are also working towards HNCIG in-person events at IFHNOS and other international meetings next year!

A big thank you to all those who have contributed this edition of the newsletter!

Stay tuned!

Consensus guidelines for extranodal extension

Dr Christina Henson

Radiographic ENE (iENE)

The first set of guidelines comprises consensus recommendations for imaging-detected extranodal extension (iENE) in head and neck cancer, with the aim of harmonizing and clinical practice and standardizing research.

Pathologic ENE (pENE) is a well-known negative prognostic factor for head and neck cancer and is an indication for adjuvant chemoradiation after definitive surgery. At present, however, imaging is not routinely used to predict for presence or absence of ENE, which represents a big missed opportunity. Multiple studies have demonstrated iENE sensitivity of 60-80% and specificity of 72-96% to predict for pENE. There is currently no consensus or standardization of the diagnostic criteria by which to diagnose iENE.

All 21 member organizations of the HNCIG were invited to nominate an expert head and neck radiologist to join in a global consensus panel. Participating groups were DAHANCA, NWHHT, ECOG-ACRIN, GORTEC, FUSCC, IAG-KHT, JCOG-HNCSG, HeCOG, HKNPCSG, LACOG, NCCS, NCRI, NRG Oncology, and TTCC. The nominated radiologists completed online questionnaires through a modified Delphi process which included questions on four main iENE topics: diagnostic criteria, interobserver agreement, the impact of core biopsy, and classification systems.

Regarding iENE features, the experts strongly agreed that indistinct nodal margin, extension into perinodal fat, extension into adjacent structures, and conglomerate/matted/coalescent nodes should all be used as criteria by which to identify iENE, while nodal necrosis and capsular thickening should not. In this publication, the HNCIG proposes a new four-tier classification system for the diagnosis of iENE, as well as a synoptic form for aiding and standardizing diagnosis. These guidelines have been endorsed by 19 organizations representing 34 countries.

The results of this project were first presented at the 2024 Multidisciplinary Head and Neck Cancers Symposium. An essential prerequisite for implementation of iENE into clinical practice is the availability of widely accepted, reliable, and consistent definitions and diagnostic criteria, which are now available for use. The Lancet Oncology publication is accompanied by an atlas full of real-life examples and detailed and specific guidance, which serves as an educational resource for grading iENE using the new HNCIG classification system. This atlas is available for access and download on the HNCIG website.

[Click for full article](#)

Pathologic ENE (pENE)

The second Lancet Oncology publication is a similar set of consensus guidelines pertaining to pENE. For this project, the HNCIG convened a panel of 19 expert head and neck pathologists representing 15 national clinical research groups to participate in a Delphi process evaluating topics for pENE diagnostic criteria and sample processing. Although pENE is known to worsen prognosis and serves as an indication for escalating adjuvant therapy, there are several aspects of pENE that lack consensus, resulting in significant heterogeneity in diagnosing pENE. Without a standardized approach to defining and diagnosing pENE, it can be difficult to make meaningful comparisons across studies and to draw definitive conclusions about the prognostic significance of some types of pENE. It may also result in indications for treatment intensification being inconsistently applied in both clinical and research settings. The objective of this project was to generate consensus recommendations on the diagnosis of pENE and to standardize protocols for sample process and interpretation in order to provide a framework for decision-making and research of pENE going forward. This manuscript is also accompanied by an atlas of real-life examples and guidance, available for access and download on the HNCIG website.

[Click for full article](#)

HNCIG Portfolio Open Trials

HNCIG-1: Post-operative Adjuvant Treatment for HPV-positive Tumours (PATHOS)

HNCIG-2: EORTC 1420: Study Assessing The "Best of" Radiotherapy vs the "Best of" Surgery in Patients With Oropharyngeal Carcinoma (Best Of).

HNCIG-3: CompARE: Phase III randomised controlled trial Comparing Alternative Regimens for escalating treatment of intermediate and high-risk oropharyngeal cancer.

HNCIG-5: NRG HN001: Individualized Treatment in Treating Patients With Stage II-IVB Nasopharyngeal Cancer Based on EBV DNA.

HNCIG-8: HNC TACTIC: An international study of artificial intelligence applied to electronic health records

HNCIG-14: EORTC 1206: Androgen deprivation therapy in advanced salivary gland cancer

Other Guidelines Developed or Endorsed by HNCIG

Porceddu SV, Daniels C, Yom SS, Liu H, Waldron J, Gregoire V, Moore A, Veness M, Yao M, Johansen J, Mehanna H, Rischin D, Le QT. Head and Neck Cancer International Group (HNCIG) Consensus Guidelines for the Delivery of Postoperative Radiation Therapy in Complex Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Head and Neck (cSCCHN). *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys.* 2020 Jul 15;107(4):641-651

Carsuzaa F, Lapeyre M, Gregoire V, Maingon P, Beddok A, Marcy PY, Salleron J, Coutte A, Racadot S, Pointreau Y, Graff P, Beadle B, Benezery K, Biau J, Calugaru V, Castelli J, Chua M, Di Rito A, Dore M, Ghadjar P, Huguet F, Jardel P, Johansen J, Kimple R, Krengli M, Laskar S, Mcdowell L, Nichols A, Tribius S, Valduvico I, Hu C, Liem X, Moya-Plana A, D'onofrio I, Parvathaneni U, Takiar V, Orlandi E, Psyrrri A, Shenouda G, Sher D, Steuer C, Shan Sun X, Tao Y, Thomson D, Tsai MH, Vulquin N, Gorphe P, Mehanna H, Yom SS, Bourhis J, Thariat J. Recommendations for postoperative radiotherapy in head & neck squamous cell carcinoma in the presence of flaps: A GORTEC internationally-reviewed HNCIG-endorsed consensus. *Radiother Oncol.* 2021 May 11;160:140-147.

Mehanna H, Hardman JC, Shenson JA, Abou-Foul AK, Topf MC, AlFalasi M, Chan JYK, Chaturvedi P, Chow VLY, Dietz A, Fagan JJ, Godballe C, Golusiński W, Homma A, Hosal S, Iyer NG, Kerawala C, Koh YW, Konney A, Kowalski LP, Kraus D, Kuriakose MA, Kyrodimos E, Lai SY, Leemans CR, Lennon P, Licitra L, Lou PJ, Lyons B, Mirghani H, Nichols AC, Paleri V, Panizza BJ, Parente Arias P, Patel MR, Piazza C, Rischin D, Sanabria A, Takes RP, Thomson DJ, Uppaluri R, Wang Y, Yom SS, Zhu YM, Porceddu SV, de Almeida JR, Simon C, Holsinger FC. Recommendations for head and neck surgical oncology practice in a setting of acute severe resource constraint during the COVID-19 pandemic: an international consensus. *Lancet Oncol.* 2020 Jul;21(7):e350-e359. doi: 10.1016/S1470-2045(20)30334-X. Epub 2020 Jun 11.

Grégoire V, Evans M, Le QT, Bourhis J, Budach V, Chen A, Eisbruch A, Feng M, Giralt J, Gupta T, Hamoir M, Helito JK, Hu C, Hunter K, Johansen J, Kaanders J, Laskar SG, Lee A, Maingon P, Mäkitie A, Micciche' F, Nicolai P, O'Sullivan B, Poitevin A, Porceddu S, Skłodowski K, Tribius S, Waldron J, Wee J, Yao M, Yom SS, Zimmermann F, Grau C. Delineation of the primary tumour Clinical Target Volumes (CTV-P) in laryngeal, hypopharyngeal, oropharyngeal and oral cavity squamous cell carcinoma: AIRO, CACA, DAHANCA, EORTC, GEORCC, GORTEC, HKNPCSG, HNCIG, IAG-KHT, LPRHHT, NCIC CTG, NCRI, NRG Oncology, PHNS, SBRT, SOMERA, SRO, SSHNO, TROG consensus guidelines. *Radiother Oncol.* 2018 Jan;126(1):3-24

Thomson DJ, Palma D, Guckenberger M, Balermipas P, Beitler JJ, Blanchard P, Brizel D, Budach W, Caudell J, Corry J, Corvo R, Evans M, Garden AS, Giralt J, Gregoire V, Harari PM, Harrington K, Hitchcock YJ, Johansen J, Kaanders J, Koyfman S, Langendijk JA, Le QT, Lee N, Margalit D, Mierzwa M, Porceddu S, Soong YL, Sun Y, Thariat J, Waldron J, Yom SS. Practice Recommendations for Risk-Adapted Head and Neck Cancer Radiation Therapy During the COVID-19 Pandemic: An ASTRO-ESTRO Consensus Statement. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys.* 2020 Jul 15;107(4):618-627. doi: 10.1016/j.ijrobp.2020.04.016. Epub 2020 Apr 14.

Ng WT, Soong YL, Ahn YC, AlHussain H, Choi HCW, Corry J, Grégoire V, Harrington KJ, Hu CS, Jensen K, Kwong DL, Langendijk JA, Le QT, Lee NY, Lin JC, Lu TX, Mendenhall WM, O'Sullivan B, Ozyar E, Pan JJ, Peters LJ, Poh SS, Rosenthal DI, Sanguineti G, Tao Y, Wee JT, Yom SS, Chua MLK, Lee AWM. International Recommendations on Reirradiation by Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy for Locally Recurrent Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys.* 2021 Jul 1;110(3):682-695.

HNCIG Board

Chair: Hisham Mehanna NCRI/UK
 Secretary: Amanda Psyrrri HeCOG/Greece
 Neus Baste TTCC/Spain
 Chaosu Hu Fudan University/China
 John Waldron CCTG/Canada
 Martin Forster NCRI/UK
 Yungan Tao GORTEC/France
 Melvin Chua NCC/Singapore
 Dora Kwong NPC study group/HK
 Robert Takes NWHHT/Netherlands
 Sue Yom NRG Oncology/USA
 Lisa Licitra GONO Italian H&N group/IT
 Rathan Subramaniam ECOG/New Zealand
 Pei-Jen Alex Taiwan

Sinead Brennan ICORG/Ireland
 Luiz Kowalski LACOG/Brazil
 Jørgen Johansen DAHANCA/Denmark
 Sarbani Ghosh Laskar TATA/India
 Silke Tribius EORTC/EU
 Andreas Dietz IAG KHT German HN study group
 Naomi Kiyota HNCSSG Japan
 Mu-Hung Tsai TCOG
 Petr Szturz SAKK/Switzerland
 Ana Varges Gomes GECCP/Portugal
 Scott Bratman Canada
 Observers:
 Jan Vermorken
 Danny Rischin

HNCIG Subcommittees

Guidelines and Protocols

Co-Chairs:
 Sue Yom
 Juliette Thariat
 Committee members:
 Lachlan McDowell
 Antoine Moya-Plana
 Amanda Psyrrri
 George Shenouda
 David Thomson
 Carole Fakhry
 Akihiro Homma
 Conor Steuer
 Sarbani Ghosh Laskar
 Velda Ling YuChow
 Annette Lim
 Christophe Le Tourneau

Scientific Clinical Trials

Co-Chairs:
 Melvin Chua
 Ana Varges Gomes
 Committee members:
 Victor Lee
 Manuel Weber
 Pankaj Kumar Panda
 Yip Pui Lam
 Petr Szturz
 Andy Karabajakian
 Clemenc Toullec
 Romelie Rieu
 Ester Orlandi
 Christian Simon
 Tan Sze Huey

Young Investigators

Co-Chairs:	Andrew Day	Giacomo Fiacchini
Christina Henson	Aditya Shreenivas	Gabriel Adrian
Lachlan McDowell	Natascha Putri	Pranav Mohan
Committee members:	Pierluigi Bonomo	Mischa de Ridder
James Bates	Sharon Poh	Rebecca Venchiarutti
Monali Swain	Anna Lee	Arjun Singh
Sujith Baliga	Pedro de Marchi	Myrto Moutafi
Sarah Hamilton	Rahul Ladwa	Laurelie Wishart
Paul Nankivell	Alexander Ruhle	Zsuzsanna Iyizoba-Ebozue
Miguel Mayo Yanez	Gary Lewis	Johannes Rijken
Esteban Brenet	Vinodh Kumar	Anna Lawless
Petr Szturz	Tim Malouff	Sreeram M.P.
Neus Baste	Rusha Patel	
Esma Saada Bouzid	Catherine Barnett	
Vijay Patil	Marco Ferrari	
Takuma Onoe	Rahim Dhanani	

Scientific Translational

Co-Chairs:	Rathan Subramaniam
Ingeborg Tinhofer-Keilholz	Remco de Bree
Jens Klussmann	Lewis WT Ng
Committee members:	Jorgen Johansen
Jason Parsons	Silke Tribius
Neus Baste	Cesare Piazza
Amaury Daste	Fran Cuesta
Ellen Van Obberghen-Schilling	Izaskun Valduvicio Ruiz
Caroline Even	Fernando Lopez Alvarez
Valentin Caluguru	William Nassib William Jr
Paolo Bossi	Luiz P Kowalski
Laura Locati	Steve Chinn
Ester Orlandi	Jessica Geiger
Devendra Chaukar	Vinita Takiar
Gouri Pantvaitya	Naomi Kiyota
Sarbani Ghosh-Laskar	Yuki Saito
	Xueguan Lu
	Yu Wang
	Qunling Zhang

Partnerships and Finance

Co-Chairs:	Nancy Lee
Franchel Rais Obongo-Anga	John de Almeida
Jean Bourhis	Haitham Mirghani
Committee members:	Hanan Bouchaab
Jan Vormorken	
Amanda Psyrrri	
Lisa Licitra	
Jean-Paul Machiels	
Denis Soulieres	
Makoto Tahara	
Aline Lauda	
Pedro Diaz de Cerio Canduela	

Database

Co-Chairs:
 Pablo Parente
 Sujith Baliga
 Committee members:
 Alberto Carral
 Lisa Licitra
 John Waldron
 Luiz Kowalski
 Deepa Nair
 Noah Kalman
 Xavier Aviles
 George Shenouda