

CRDAMC-Head and Neck Cancers
 Excluding Thyroid
 Years 1997-2007
 Completed May 2013

In the United States, head and neck cancers account for 3% of all malignancies with an estimated 53,000 Americans developing head and neck cancers annually and 11,500 dying from the disease¹

Smoking, alcohol consumption, human papillomavirus (HPV) infection and Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) infection, are the most frequent risk factors associated with head and neck cancers.

These cancers are further categorized by their site of origin such as; oral cavity, larynx, pharynx, paranasal sinuses, nasal cavity and salivary glands.

According to the American Cancer Society (ACS), Leading New Cancer Cases and Death-2013 Estimates, oral cavity and pharynx cancers rank as number 8 among the most common cancers diagnosed in men. These cancers are more than twice as common in men as in women.

Head and neck cancer treatment can include surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, targeted therapy, or a combination of those. The treatment goal is to achieve disease control, and also, preservation of function of the affected areas as much as possible.

The plan of care is based on the stage of the disease, tumor location, person's age and health status.

In Darnall, during years 1997-2007 we diagnosed 41 new cases of Head and Neck Cancers.

The following are the findings.

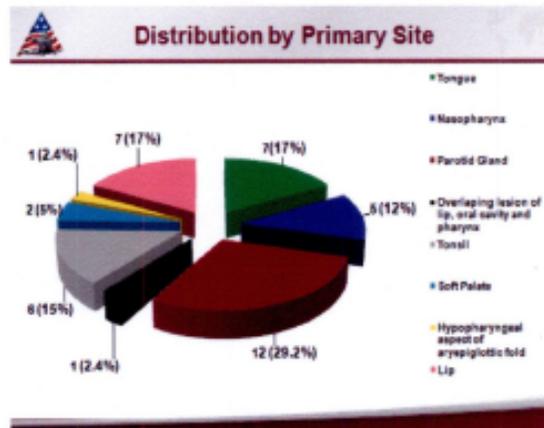


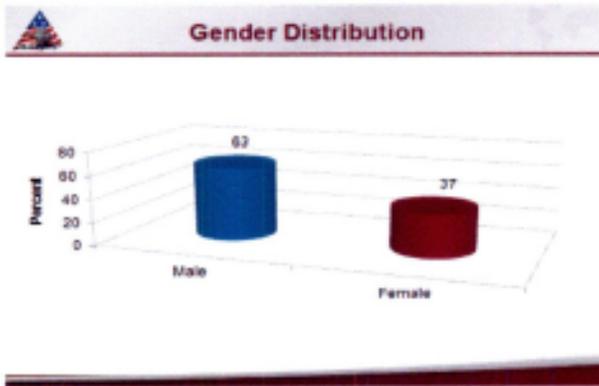
Figure 1

The most common head and neck cancer in Darnall was in the parotid glands with 29% of all cases.

According to the ACS; this cancer is not as common, accounting for less than 1% of all cancers in the United States. Some of the risk factors linked to salivary gland cancers are radiation exposure to the head and neck area for other medical reasons and workplace exposure to certain radioactive substances. Researchers have found that some salivary gland cancers have DNA abnormalities and exposure to radiation or certain carcinogens may result in DNA changes, but in most cases, the cause of salivary gland cancers is unknown. Studies have shown, that tobacco and alcohol use have not been strongly linked to salivary gland cancers.

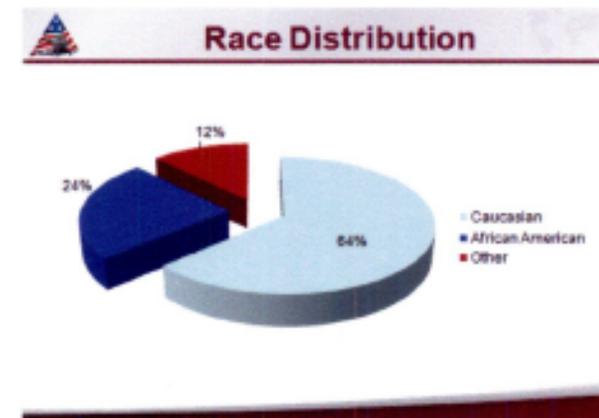
Our parotid cancer cases were more female than male with an average age of 38 years old. The reason for having more parotid cancer than any other oral cavity cancer in Darnall is unknown.

Figure 2



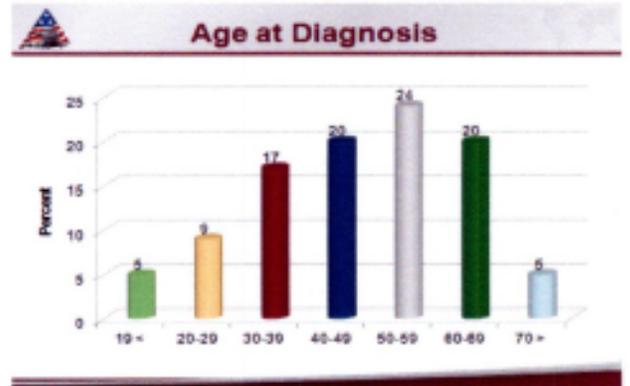
Our gender distribution showed that more men are diagnosed with head and neck cancers than women and this is consistent with the nation.

Figure 3



The incidence was higher in Caucasians than any other ethnic group, with 64% of all cases. The reason for having a higher number of Caucasian patients than any other ethnic group was not studied at this time, but access to care for other ethnic groups is not an issue in this institution.

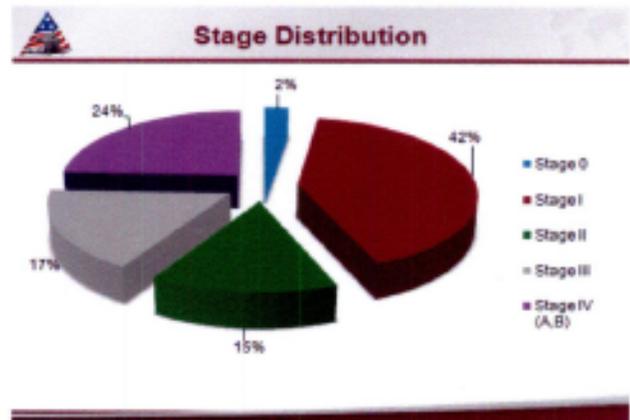
Figure 4



Our age distribution showed that most of the cases were diagnosed between ages 50-59 with 24% of all cases. The median age at diagnosis was 47.5 (48) years of age.

The average age of most people diagnosed with oral cavity and oropharynx in United States, is 62 years old.

Figure 5



Our stage distribution showed that 44% of the cases were diagnosed early (Stages 0 and I).

There was 24% with more advanced disease (Stage IVA and IVB). These patients with stage IV disease did not have distant metastasis.

Only 2 cases diagnosed at stage IV have died at this point.

Table 1

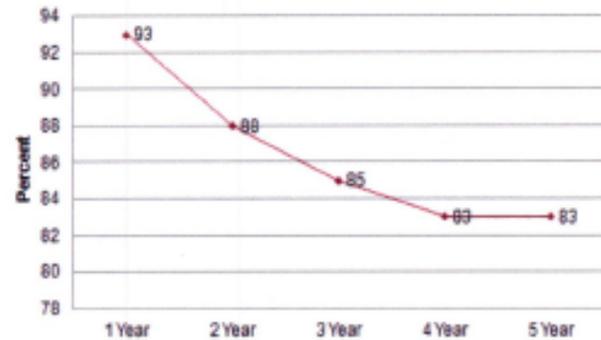
Head and Neck Cancers Distribution of Cases by Site, Age Sex and Race-1997-2007																		
Primary Site	Tongue		Throat		Parotid Glands		Lip		Naso Pharynx		Hypo Pharynx		Soft Palate		Overlapping lesion			
	Cases	Pct %	Cases	Pct %	Cases	Pct %	Cases	Pct %	Cases	Pct %	Cases	Pct %	Cases	Pct %	Cases	Pct %		
Age																		
20-29					4	100												
30-39	1	100																
40-49	2	100	2	100	2	100	1	100					1	100				
50-59	3	100	1	100	1	100	2	100	1	100	1	100	1	100				
60-69	1	100	2	100	2	100	2	100	1	100								
70+							1	100									1	100
Sex																		
Male	1	100	4	100	4	100	7	100	2	100	1	100	1	100	1	100	1	100
Female	2	100	2	100	8	100			3	100			1	100				
Race																		
Caucasian	3	100	8	100	8	100	7	100	1	100			2	100	1	100	1	100
African American	2	100			5	100			2	100								
Other	1	100			1	100			1	100	1	100						

This table shows the patient's characteristics by site. As mentioned previously, parotid gland cancer was the most frequent diagnosis in this population. Also, this table shows that parotid gland cancer has the youngest average age at diagnosis of the sites described here. Seventy five percent (75%) of all parotid cancers were younger than 50 years of age and they were mostly females.

The most frequent head and neck cancer site in males was in the lip, and all of these patients were Caucasian.

Figure 6

**Head and Neck Cancers-CRDAMC
5 Year Overall Survival Rate-Years 1997-2007**



Our overall survival rate for years 1997-2007 showed that 93% survived 1 year from diagnosis and 83% survived 5 years from diagnosis.

The National Cancer Data Base (NCDB) of the Commission on Cancer (CoC) showed that from years 1998-2002, the 5 years overall survival rate of all other CoC accredited cancer programs was 50%.

Conclusion/Summary

Our numbers indicate that we have a small population of head and neck cancers excluding thyroid carcinomas. The most common head and neck cancer in Darnall was in the parotid glands which are not very common in the United States.

All the cases diagnosed with this cancer site are still alive to date.

The reason for having a slightly higher parotid gland cancer than any other oral cavity cancer is unknown. It may be that since we have a younger age population, the long term effect of smoking and alcohol are not evident yet in their development of other oral cavity cancers.

The total number of head and neck cancers deaths to date was 12 cases, which is 29% overall.

The 5 year overall survival rate from years 1997-2007 was 83% which is very good if compare to other cancer centers.