

Most HPV+ OPSCC recurrence, toxicity events occur early

February 15 2016



(HealthDay)—For patients with human papillomavirus-positive

oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma (HPV+ OPSCC), most of the disease recurrence and late toxicity events after treatment occur within six months, according to research published in the Feb. 15 issue of *Cancer*.

Jessica M. Frakes, M.D., from the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute in Tampa, Fla., and colleagues conducted a [retrospective review](#) of data from 232 patients with biopsy-proven, nonmetastatic HPV+ OPSCC who were treated with radiotherapy. Patients were followed every three months for the first year, every four months in year two, and every six months in years three to five; median follow-up was 33 months.

The researchers found that 85 percent of patients used [systemic therapy](#). For locoregional control, distant control, and overall survival, the three-year rates were 94, 91, and 91 percent, respectively. Nine percent of patients experienced late toxicity. Most toxicity and failure events (64 percent) occurred within the first six months of follow-up; at each subsequent follow-up there was a

Citation: Most HPV+ OPSCC recurrence, toxicity events occur early (2016, February 15)
retrieved 27 April 2024 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2016-02-hpv-opscc-recurrence-toxicity-events.html>

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