

# Better prognosis with surgery for HPV-linked oropharyngeal SCC

July 18 2017

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(HealthDay)—Patients with human papillomavirus (HPV)-associated

oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) have higher five-year overall survival (OS) and disease-specific survival (DSS) rates after surgery alone, according to a study published online July 10 in *Head & Neck*.

Martina A. Broglie, M.D., from Kantonsspital St. Gallen in Switzerland, and colleagues conducted a retrospective analysis of survival estimates in patients with surgically treated oropharyngeal SCC, stratifying by tumoral positivity for HPV and risk-of-death categories.

The researchers found that HPV-associated oropharyngeal SCC correlated with higher five-year OS (80 versus 62 percent;  $P = 0.01$ ) and DSS (92 versus 76 percent;  $P = 0.03$ ) rates after [surgery](#) alone. Higher survival rates were seen for patients in the low-risk category (OS: 91 percent; DSS: 99 percent), compared with the intermediate-risk (OS: 63 percent; DSS: 83 percent) and high-risk (OS: 61 percent; DSS: 75 percent) groups.

"Nonsmokers with HPV-positive oropharyngeal SCC have a better prognosis than smokers with HPV-positive oropharyngeal SCC and also than [patients](#) with HPV-negative tumors when treated by surgery alone," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
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Citation: Better prognosis with surgery for HPV-linked oropharyngeal SCC (2017, July 18)  
retrieved 4 May 2024 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2017-07-prognosis-surgery-hpv-linked-oropharyngeal-scc.html>

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