

Hemi/Partial Glossectomy

An information guide

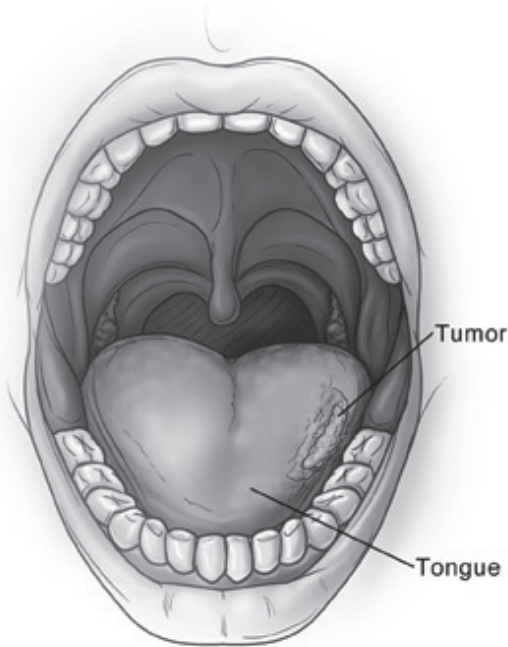


Hemi/Partial Glossectomy

A **Hemi or Partial Glossectomy** refers to the surgical removal of part of the tongue. How much of the tongue is removed depends on the size of your cancer and where it is. The area where your tongue is removed from is then replaced by skin / muscle (known as a 'flap') taken from another part of your body. Your surgeon will talk to you about the best place to take the flap from in your individual case.

The role of the tongue

The tongue is a specialised muscle involved in speech, chewing, swallowing and taste which means these functions will be affected following your surgery.



The role of the Speech and Language Therapist

Your Speech and Language Therapist will be available to advise you on how your surgery will impact on your speech and swallowing.

Speech

Immediately after your operation you will not be able to use your voice as you will have a breathing tube placed in your windpipe. This will usually only stay in for a few days and will be removed before you go home.

You may need to use writing to communicate in the days following your operation. If this is difficult for you the Speech and Language Therapist can provide picture material to support you.

In the longer term your speech may be altered and may sound and feel different. The effect the operation has on your speech will depend upon how much of your tongue is removed and how it is repaired. You will still be able to speak and be understood.

The Speech and Language Therapist may introduce exercises to help with your speech.

Swallowing

For several days following your operation it will not be safe for you to eat or drink. You will have a temporary feeding tube in your nose that goes down into your stomach called a nasogastric tube (NG tube).

When your surgeon feels it is appropriate, your swallow will be assessed by the Speech and Language Therapist who will give advice about your swallowing and safety to resume eating and drinking.

Whilst you are healing you will need to eat softer, moister foods which the Speech and Language Therapist and Dietitian will jointly advise you on. The Dietitian may advise you to take nutritional supplements in order to support your diet. The long term effect on your swallowing will depend upon how much of the tongue is removed and how it is repaired.

The Speech and Language Therapist may introduce exercises to help you with your swallowing.

Following recovery from surgery you may require radiotherapy. Your surgeon will discuss this with you.

If radiotherapy is required this may further impact on your swallowing. Your Speech and Language Therapist will advise you about this.

Contact details

Name

Telephone number

Notes:

If English is not your first language and you need help, please contact the Interpretation and Translation Service

Jeśli angielski nie jest twoim pierwszym językiem i potrzebujesz pomocy, skontaktuj się z działem tłumaczeń ustnych i pisemnych

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Dacă engleza nu este prima ta limbă și ai nevoie de ajutor, te rugăm să contactezi Serviciul de interpretare și traducere

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For general enquiries please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 0161 604 5897


For enquiries regarding clinic appointments, clinical care and treatment please contact 0161 624 0420 and the Switchboard Operator will put you through to the correct department / service

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