

Facing Surgery for Throat Cancer?

Learn about minimally invasive *da Vinci*® Surgery for early to moderate stage throat cancer.

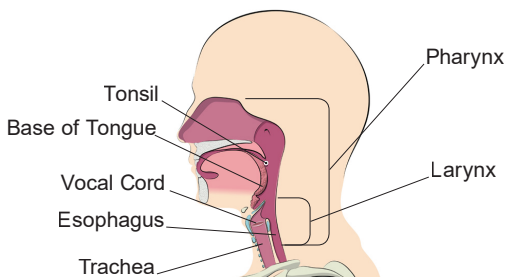
The Condition

Throat Cancer

Cancer that occurs in your throat (pharynx), voice box (larynx), base of the tongue or tonsils is commonly called throat cancer. It is more common in adults over 50, and men are 10 times more likely to develop the disease¹. Worldwide, there are about 290,000 cases of throat cancer diagnosed each year.

Studies show people who are dependent on alcohol and/or tobacco have a higher rate of throat cancer. Also, oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma (OSCC), which affects the tonsils and base of tongue, is increasing rapidly among younger people as the rate of the human papillomavirus (HPV) rises. HPV is a virus commonly passed from person to person during sexual activity.

A neck and throat exam may show the presence of cancer. Mucus or phlegm that is coughed up (sputum) may look bloody and a lump may appear on the outside of the neck. Symptoms also can include abnormal sounding breathing, coughing, neck or throat pain, and difficulty swallowing. It is important to be aware of these symptoms since throat cancer is highly curable when found early.



Treatment & Surgical Options:

After a diagnosis is made and the stage (extent) of the throat cancer is determined, your doctor will suggest treatment options.

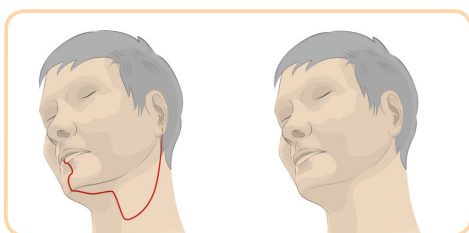
The goal of treatment is to get rid of the cancer and prevent it from spreading. Treatment options include surgery, chemotherapy and radiation, often given in combination.

Depending on the tumor size, location and stage, your doctor may recommend surgery. There are two main types: open surgery and transoral (through the mouth) laser surgery.

Traditional open surgery to remove cancer requires your surgeon to make a long incision through the jaw and throat. Your surgeon may also need to break the jawbone to access the tumor. This can cause disfigurement as well as difficulty eating, speaking and swallowing. Reconstructive or plastic surgery may be needed to rebuild the bones or tissues removed during surgery.

Transoral laser surgery is a minimally invasive alternative to open surgery. Using a surgical camera and microscope passed through the mouth, the surgeon directs the laser to the tumor - avoiding facial disfigurement and a tracheostomy (incision in front of neck used as an airway).

There is another minimally invasive option for patients diagnosed with early to moderate stage throat cancer: *da Vinci* Surgery.



Open Surgery
Incision

da Vinci / Transoral
Laser Surgery
No Incision, No Scars

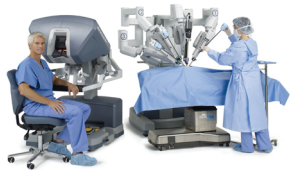
da Vinci Surgery :

A Minimally Invasive Surgical Option

The *da Vinci* System allows your surgeon to operate through the mouth – similar to other minimally invasive options. *da Vinci* features a magnified 3D high-definition vision system and special wristed instruments that bend and rotate far greater than the human wrist. The *da Vinci* Surgical System provides your surgeon with enhanced vision, precision and dexterity.

As a result of *da Vinci* technology, potential benefits of *da Vinci* Transoral Robotic Surgery include:

- › Precise removal of cancerous tissue
- › Low rate of complications
- › Low blood loss
- › Minimal need for tracheotomy (breathing tube)
- › Minimal need for chemoradiation therapy
- › Ability to swallow following surgery
- › Short hospital stay
- › No visible scarring or disfigurement



Risks & Considerations Related to Throat Cancer Surgery & *da Vinci* Transoral Robotic Surgery:

Potential risks of any throat cancer procedure include:

- Vocal cord damage
- Speech and swallowing dysfunction
- Need for a tracheostoma (hole in neck) to breathe

There are potential risks related to minimally invasive surgery, including *da Vinci* TORS, such as post-operative hemorrhage and bleeding from the surgical site.