

Study group – Head and Neck Cancer

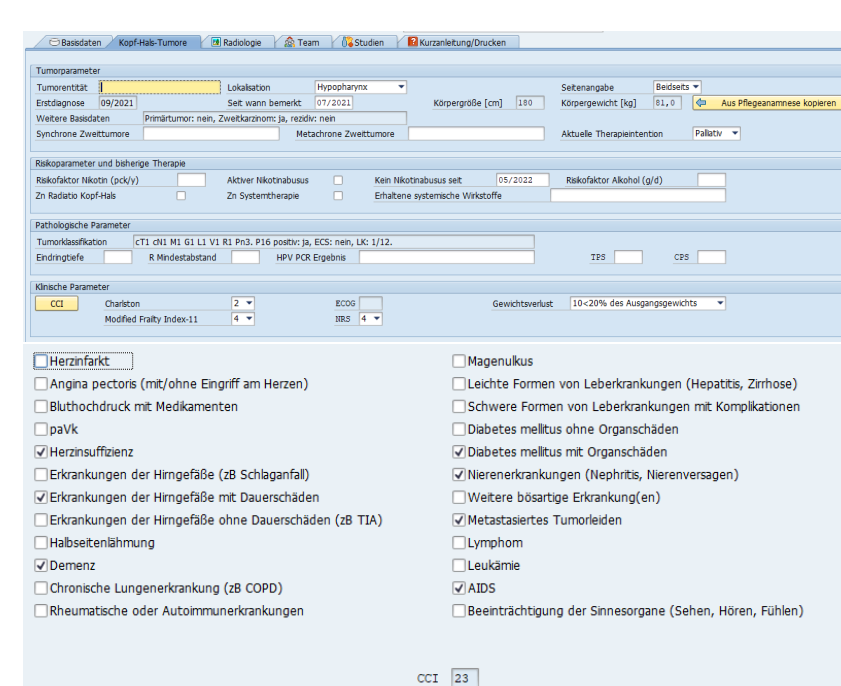
The Head and Neck Cancer group is different consisting of three specialties (ENT, Radiation-Onco., OMFS). The main task was to establish a working network. The second task was a collaborative Head and Neck Cancer data set and, as a third step, the launch of a common research project.

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Dr. Urs Müller-Richter, Würzburg

Concept & Achievements

The Head and Neck Cancer group is different consisting of three disciplines treating Head and Neck Cancer themselves with different approaches. In the past, cooperation between these disciplines was not as distinct as cooperation in other tumor entities. Therefore, the major task of this study group was to establish a working cooperation. After achieving this, the group elaborated three milestones:

- » **Establishment of a collaborative Head and Neck Cancer data set**
- » **Launch of a basic research project**
- » **Think tank: further research topics as funding possibilities**

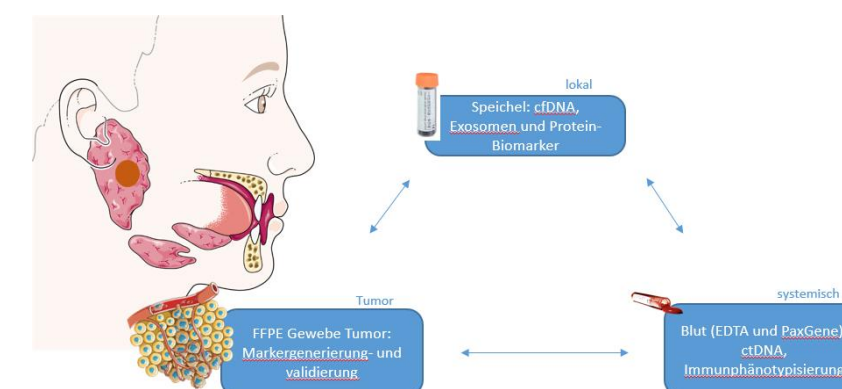


Milestone 1: Collaborative Head and Neck Cancer data set

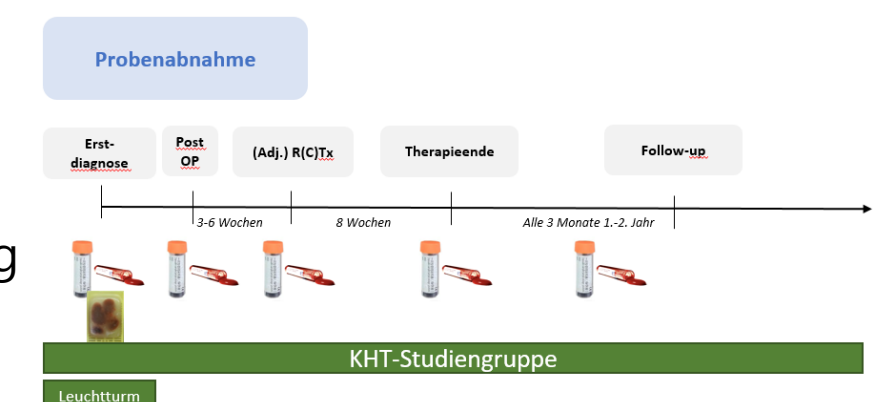
Rationale: The common data set (ADT-Basisdatensatz) does not reflect the organ specific needs. Without such a specific data set, contemporary and future clinical research will not be possible. New parameters include e.g. like PD-L1 or HPV status but also clinical parameters like Charlson score or Frailty indices. Milestone 1 was reached in April 2022.

Milestone 2: New biomarkers and diagnostic tools in salivary gland carcinomas

- Preconditions for the project were:
- Every discipline is able to contribute
 - Every discipline will have scientific benefit from the project
 - Basic to translational research
 - Use of de-centralized biobanking
 - Use of local excellence for assessment
 - Should lead to a joint publication
 - Lay the basis for third party funding



The project will connect to the lighthouse-modul Salivary Gland Tumors of the BZKF to elicit synergies. The project will use saliva (ctDNA, exosomes, proteins), blood (ctDNA, immunophenotyping), tissue (FFPE). The timeline is 1 year. Finalization of the proposal will happen on the next study group meeting.



Milestone 3: Think tank: further research topics as funding possibilities

This task was intentionally postponed. As the lively discussions in the group showed, it is very beneficial to take one step after the other. Once the research project is implemented the group will move on to milestone 3.

Future Milestones

- » **Third-party funding for salivary gland carcinoma research project (secondary projects)**
- » **Think tank: further research topics as funding possibilities**
- » **IIT using the collaborative data set (outcome, health care research)**
- » **Clinical trial cooperation. Joint patient acquisition.**

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