Evidence Based Head & Neck Cancer Management
your road to BRS-S

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Evidence Based Head & Neck Cancer Management

- Role of the Speech-Language Pathologist
- Perioperative Management Schema
- Impact of Extent of Resection/Treatment
- Patient Factors Influencing Outcomes
Role of the Speech-Language Pathologist

- Key member of a multidisciplinary team
- Evaluate and treat speech and swallowing deficits
- Complete understanding of type of surgery/intervention
- Implications on Speech and Swallow
- Implementation of individualized techniques guided by a protocol
Perioperative Management Schema

- Preoperative/tx Evaluation and Counseling
- Postoperative /tx Inpatient Evaluation and Management
- Postoperative /tx Outpatient Evaluation and Management
Preoperative/tx Evaluation & Counseling

◆ **Education**: Anatomical Changes Vs. Speech and Swallowing
◆ **Counseling**: Rehabilitation Course
◆ **Evaluation**: Premorbid Speech-Language-Cognitive Skills
Postoperative/tx Inpatient Evaluation and Counseling

- Discuss Surgery in Details
- Initiate Speech Treatment as Indicated
  - Finger Occlusion of Trach
  - Use of Speaking Valves
- Initiate Indirect Swallowing Treatment as Indicated
Postoperative/tx Outpatient Evaluation and Counseling

- Continue with Speech/Voice Treatment
- Evaluate Swallowing Skills and Initiate Direct Treatment
Psychosocial Aspects

- In many minds cancer is associated with death
- Depression - Dependency - Loss of self esteem - Loss of control
- Emotional roller coaster
  - Shock - Anger - Grief - Bargaining - Uncertainty - Renewal
How much more complicated can it be?
Impact of Extent of Resection

- Standard & Extended Vertical Hemilaryngectomy
- Standard & Extended Supraglottic Laryngectomy (Chung et al., 2010)
- Supracricoid Laryngectomy with Cricohyoidepiglottopexy (CHEP) (Sanchez-Cuadrado et al., 2011)
- Supracricoid Laryngectomy with Cricohyoidopexy (CHP) (Sanchez-Cuadrado et al., 2011)
- Supracricoid Hemilaryngopharyngectomy
- Window Laryngectomy (Wang et al., 2011; Shapshay et al., 1994)
Pre Operative  

SCPL w/ CHEP  

Supraglottic Laryngectomy
Patient Factors Influencing Outcome

(Makeleff et al., 2007; Schindler, Favero et al., 2009; Simonelli et al., 2010; Webster et al., 2010)

- Previous Therapy (i.e. radiation)
- Psychosocial Aspects
  - Coping strategies
- Underlying Medical Condition
- Age
Previous Therapy

- **Radiation**: (Piazza et al., 2007)
  - Decreases pharyngeal peristalsis
  - Interferes with healing
  - Delays PO Intake
  - Can affect CP function
  - Xerostomia
Underlying Medical Condition

- Gastroesophageal Reflux
- Diabetes
- COPD
- Chemotherapy
Age Related Factors

- Cognition
  - Memory
  - Sequencing
- Hearing Loss
Conclusion

◆ Clinicians must:
  – Understand their critical role in a multidisciplinary team
  – have comprehensive knowledge of the anatomical changes
  – know the implications on Speech and Swallow
  – implement individualized techniques guided by a protocol
  – account for all other factors that may influence outcome


