



Office for Health
Improvement
& Disparities

Atlas of health variation in head and neck cancer in England

Research gaps

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11. Research gaps

During the steering group meetings to develop this atlas, the following research gaps were identified:

- Effective interventions to stop tobacco use (smoking and smokeless) and reduce alcohol consumption at a population and community level as well as via primary care networks
- Appropriate approaches to improve the coverage and reduce the variation in uptake of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination
- Developing understanding of the effect of reducing risk factors on head and neck cancer risk
- Assessment of the societal costs of head and neck cancer
- Ways to reduce inequalities in the incidence, stage of diagnosis and mortality in vulnerable groups
- Effective inclusive approaches to raising awareness of head and neck cancer. These approaches should be developed to be appropriate to groups in the community who are most risk of head and neck cancer and its burden
- Evidence to inform a review of the need for a screening programme for head and neck cancer including targeting screening based on risk factors, the effectiveness of screening tests and the healthcare/dental professionals to undertake screening
- Testing risk predictor tools for determining the recall interval for oral health assessments and prompting prevention interventions in dental practice
- Development and evaluation of biomarkers for early detection of head and neck cancer

These are in addition to the data gaps mentioned in the introduction.

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