

Overview:

This two-day event will provide attendees with an up-to-date overview of the latest advances in head and neck cancer treatment from leading medical, surgical and rehabilitation specialists.

The speech and language therapy and wider AHP team will provide insights into person-centred rehabilitation across the care pathway, including surgery, radiotherapy, systemic therapies and in the context of recurrent disease. Patient experts will share their experience throughout the programme.

Audience:

This event is open to anyone involved in the care of people diagnosed with head and neck cancer, including allied health professionals, nurses, dental specialists and ENT, maxillofacial and oncology trainees.

Sponsors:

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The above sponsors provided funding for the study day, but they have had no input into the programme, selection of speakers or topics.

Annual Update on Advances in Head and Neck Cancer: Treatment, Rehabilitation and Patient Experience (2-Day) Study Day

7th - 8th October 2025

Venue:

The Royal Marsden Education and Conference Centre, Chelsea, Stewart's Grove, London SW3 6JJ

Cost:

£200 per delegate for Both Days
£120 per delegate for Single Day

Register:

www.royalmarsden.nhs.uk/SLT

Get in touch:

Conferenceteam@rmh.nhs.uk

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Day 1 Programme:

- 08:30 Registration and Coffee**
- 09:00 Welcome and Introduction**
Kate Ashforth, Associate Lead of Therapies -Head and Neck, Neuro- Oncology & Lung,
Professional Lead of Speech and Language Therapy
The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust
- 09:15 De-Escalating Treatment and Optimizing Functional Outcomes - The Role of TORS**
Professor Vin Paleri, Consultant Head and Neck Surgeon, Director of IReC
The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust
- 10:00 From Intensity Modulated Radiotherapy (IMRT) to Intensity Modulated Proton Therapy - Maximising Functional Outcomes**
Dr Kee Wong, Consultant Clinical Oncologist
The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust
- 10:45 Break**
- 11:15 Sarcopenia and Cachexia - Implications for Rehabilitation**
Natalie Harris, Clinical Dietitian
The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust
- 12:00 What Rehab Specialists Need to Know about Free Flap Reconstruction**
Mr Francesco Riva, Associate Specialist in Head and Neck and Reconstructive Surgery
The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust
- 12:45 Lunch & Exhibition Networking Session**
- 13:45 Where Next with Targeted and Systemic Therapies in HNC**
Dr Ben O'Leary, Clinician Scientist and Honorary Consultant in Clinical Oncology
The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust
- 14:30 Physical Exercise - Not Just for the Patients**
Sarah Dewhurst, Physiotherapist
The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust
- 15:00 Break**
- 15:30 The Maggie's Centre - Support for Patients and their Families**
Charmaine Jagger
- 16:00 Patient Story: From Expert Patient to Patient Advisor**
- 16:15 Q&A Session and Closing Remarks**

Day 2 Programme:

- 08:30 Registration and Coffee**
- 09:00 From Targeted Radiotherapy to Person-Centred Care: Challenges in Long-Term Dysphagia Rehabilitation Planning**
Professor Justin Roe, Consultant and Professional Lead for Speech and Language Therapy,
Associate Lead for Therapies – Head and Neck, Lung and Neuro-Oncology
The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust
- 10:00 Supporting the Patient and Caregiver During Treatment**
Jo Rydon, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Head & Neck Oncology
The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust
- 10:30 Follow up care following HNC treatment**
Sinead Rothrie, Specialist SLT
The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust
- 11:00 Break**
- 11:30 Radiotherapy versus TORS – impact on function?**
Dr Grainne Brady, Clinical Academic Speech & Language Therapist, The Royal Marsden
NHS Foundation Trust
- 12:15 Post-operative Management of Patients Undergoing Surgery: acute and long-term rehab**
Speaker TBC
- 13:00 Lunch & Exhibition Networking Session**
- 13:45 Case studies and panel discussion: dysphagia rehabilitation following HNC.**
Kate Ashforth, Associate Lead of Therapies -Head and Neck, Neuro- Oncology & Lung,
Professional Lead of Speech and Language Therapy
The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust
- 14:30 Patient Story: Getting my Swallow Back**
- 14:45 Break**
- 15:15 Recurrent head and neck cancer: patient experience, function and quality of life**
Dr Grainne Brady, Clinical Academic Speech & Language Therapist, The Royal Marsden
NHS Foundation Trust
- 16:00 Lymphoedema- impact on swallowing function**
Speaker: TBC
- 16:45 Q&A Session**
- 17:00 Closing remarks**