

# Emotional & Physical Pathway Improvement for Head and Neck Cancer Patients

Royal National ENT and Eastman Dental Hospital



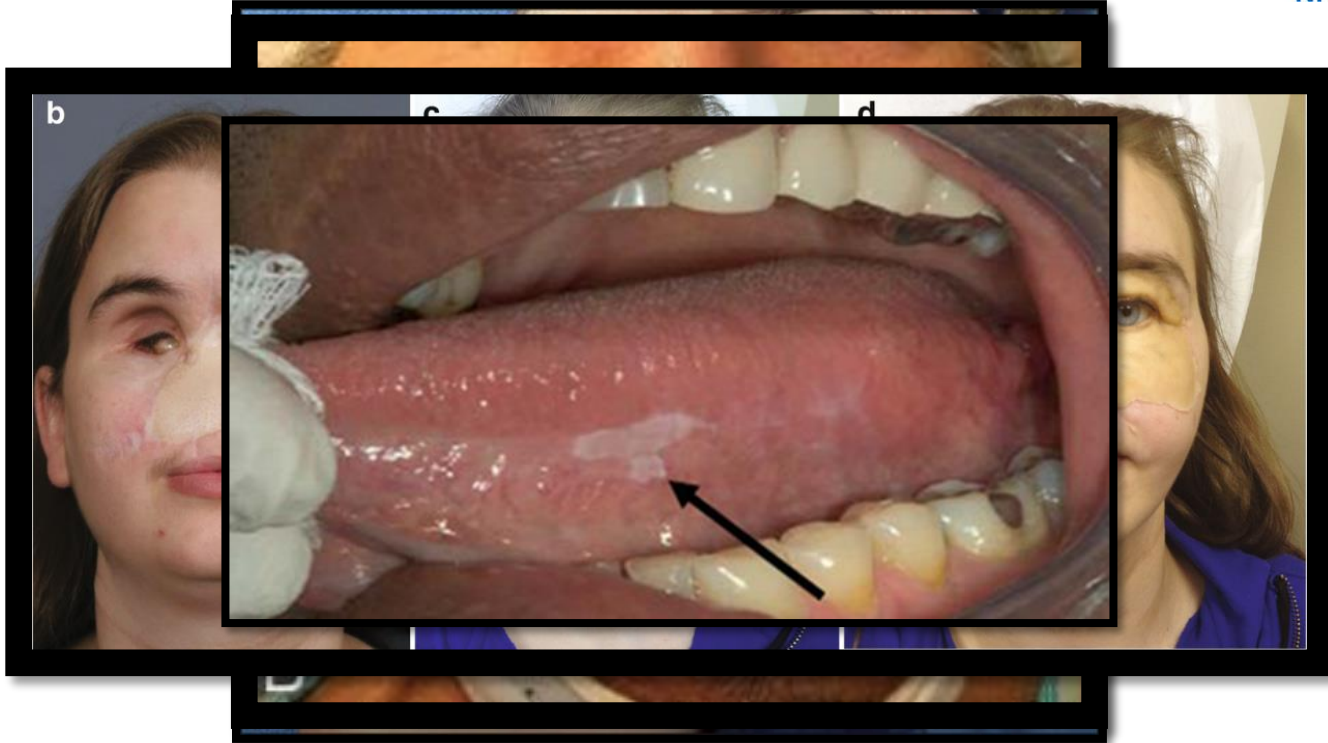
**UCLH Cancer Collaborative**

The Cancer Alliance for north and east London

**Dr Amy Patrick Specialty Training Registrar Oral Surgery**  
**@Amy\_Patrick\_**

**Dr Ambareen Naqvi Specialty Training Registrar Oral Surgery**  
**@AmbareenN**

**@uclh**

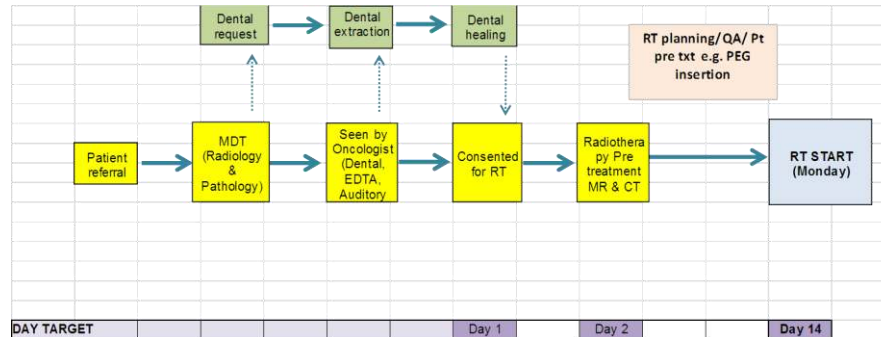


# Background

- 8100 new cases in England and Wales per year
- Squamous is the most common in the head and neck region (90%)
- Encompassing an area of complex anatomy
- Very high psychological impact

# Why streamline care?

- The new national guidelines for diagnosis to start of treatment is now **within 14 days**
- North Central and East London Cancer Alliance: cancer patients from UCLH & surrounding hospitals



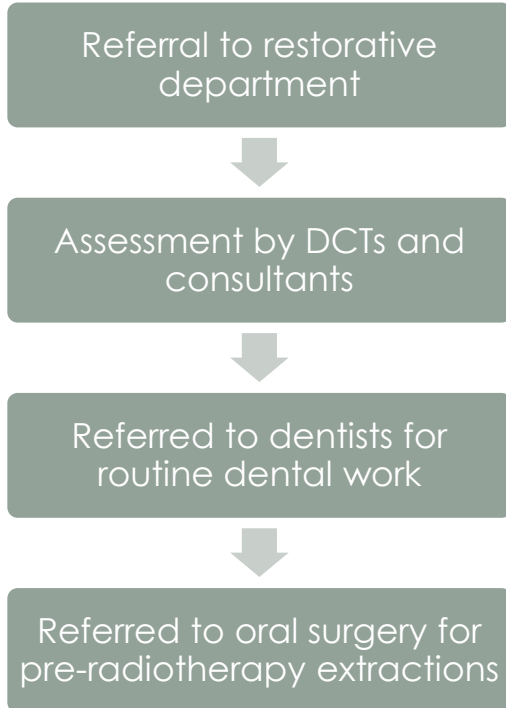
# Treatment for Head and Neck Cancer

- Radiotherapy
  - Mask Fitting
  - 60 gray usual total dose
  - Side effects
  - ORN risk
- Surgery
- Chemotherapy

## Our Role

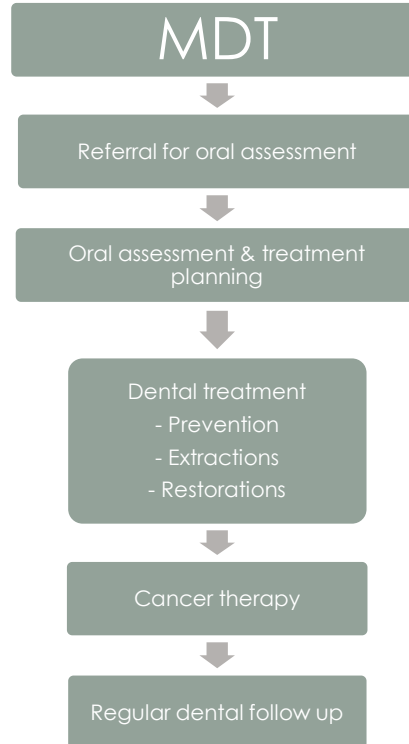
- Pre-treatment dental extractions
- Rationale of prior dental extractions:
  - minimise post radiotherapy/ cancer treatment complications
  - Improve quality of life post treatment
- Aftercare

# Previous Pathway



- No standardised referral system
- No dedicated clinic for assessment
- Not all patients had a dentist
- No standardised information given to patients prior to assessment

# New Pathway





# Changes

- Standardised assessment proforma
- Assessments carried out by StR and treatment plan confirmed by consultant
- Final treatment plan emailed/phoned to oncologists and clinical nurse specialists involved in patient care

# Changes

- Communication to whole medical/dental HNC team at each stage of care – extractions/ restorations (email/ phone)
- Review of all radiotherapy patients 4 months after completion of radiotherapy
- Introduction of patient information leaflets
  - Education of radiotherapy side effects
  - Information of dental assessment

# Key Changes

- Effective MDT Dental care
- Integrated medical and dental MDT service
- Improved communication & holistic care



Thank you

@uclh