

Study: HPV Status Is Recommended for Staging System

In a recent abstract praised by the American Society of Clinical Oncology, Johns Hopkins researchers propose that human papillomavirus (HPV) status should be a stratification factor in future clinical trials and should be included in the system used for staging head and neck cancers.

In a multicenter phase II clinical trial, researchers reviewed data on patients with head and neck squamous cell cancers. They found that HPV-positive patients responded better to concomitant chemoradiation when compared to HPV-negative patients.

The abstract received the 2007 American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Bradley Stuart Beller Foundation Fellowship Merit Award. This award was established in 1985 to recognize the top abstract submitted by a fellow, as determined by the Scientific Program Committee. The manuscript is currently under review for publication. Authors in order, Hopkins authors in bold: **Carole Fakhry, William H. Westra**, Sigui Li, Anthony Cmelak, John A. Ridge, Harlan Pinto, **Arlene Forastiere, Maura L. Gillison**.

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