



Imagine not being able to eat, swallow, speak or show simple facial expressions the way you do now.

Over 61,500 American women, men and children face that frightening reality each year when they are diagnosed with head and neck cancer. THANC was incorporated in 2003 to:

KEY CANCER FACTS

- ▶ Thyroid cancer affects women more than men. In 2016, 49,350 women and 14,950 men will receive this diagnosis.
- ▶ Thyroid cancer doesn't go into remission and can recur up to 30 years later.
- ▶ Head & neck cancer claims the lives of 9,500 people each year and includes cancers of the mouth, throat, tongue and jaw.

- ▶ Support research and education in the **early detection** of these cancers.
- ▶ Advance **new therapies**.
- ▶ Improve patient **quality of life** by alleviating suffering and functional impairment.

SOME EXAMPLES OF OUR MISSION IN MOTION

RESEARCH

THANC participates in research to develop new treatment protocols and better standards of care. Our notable work includes:

- ▶ **A tongue range of motion measurement scale** for surgically-treated oral cancer patients.
- ▶ **Defining standards for first 6 months after chemotherapy:** oral function, performance status and patient-rated quality of life.
- ▶ A randomized clinical trial examining how **electrical stimulation affects swallowing** in head and neck cancer patients with swallow impairment. NIH/NCI multi-site study.
- ▶ New **minimum tongue strength standards** for surgically-treated oral cancer patients.
- ▶ Measuring patient **outcomes after transoral robotic surgery (TORS)**.

EDUCATION

THANC's education efforts help providers in 18 countries who deal with thyroid, head and neck cancers share information and learn about the latest guidelines and best practices.

- ▶ **Gerald Gutierrez Memorial Fund:** Established in memory of the Tony-winning Broadway actor, the Fund helps educate surgeons from Spanish-speaking countries in cutting-edge surgical techniques.
- ▶ **Fellowships:** For over 25 years, some of the most accomplished head and neck surgeons from around the world have trained with THANC's medical advisor, Dr. Mark Urken. THANC makes this annual fellowship possible.
- ▶ **Thyroid Care Collaborative (TCC):** HIPAA-compliant online registry and portal helps solve common challenges in thyroid care. Includes up-to-date guidelines and vital research data for providers.
- ▶ **Haptic Assisted Surgical Planning (HASP):** 3D modelling and planning tool helps surgeons deal with the "jigsaw puzzle" of bone fragments in a highly visible area. HASP simplifies surgical planning, lowers costs and helps produce more predictable outcomes.

PATIENT SUPPORT

THANC helps patients get the information they need to manage expectations and make care decisions while at the same time letting them know they are not alone.

- ▶ **Head and Neck Cancer Guide (HNCG):** 2000+ pages of web content in age appropriate sections and approved by the National Comprehensive Cancer Network help over 20,000 cancer patients and their families each month.
- ▶ **Faces of Courage:** Survivors bravely share their stories with the newly-diagnosed via web videos and in person.
- ▶ **Thyroid Care Collaborative (TCC):** Robust online resource includes informative videos for patients.

LEADERSHIP



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FACES OF COURAGE

