



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

Over 63,030 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:

- ▶ 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.

KEY CANCER FACTS

- ▶ Thyroid cancer affects women more than men. In 2018, 42,470 women and 14,400 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 9,700 people each year and includes cancers of the mouth, throat, tongue and jaw.

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 the first 6 months after (chemo)radiotherapy:** oral function, performance status & 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 norms** for surgically-treated oral cancer patients.
- ▶ Measuring patient **outcomes after transoral robotic surgery (TORS)**.

EDUCATION

THANC's education efforts have helped 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 educates 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 for surgeons to rehearse the procedure and allow for the creation of cutting guides that reduces operation time and improves patient 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 50,000 cancer patients and their families in 129 countries each month.
- ▶ **Faces of Courage:** Survivors bravely share their stories with the newly-diagnosed.
- ▶ **Thyroid Care Collaborative (TCC):** Robust online resource includes informative videos for patients and a library of frequently asked questions.

LEADERSHIP



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