

## Upper aerodigestive tract cancer overview

NICE Pathways bring together all NICE guidance, quality standards and other NICE information on a specific topic.

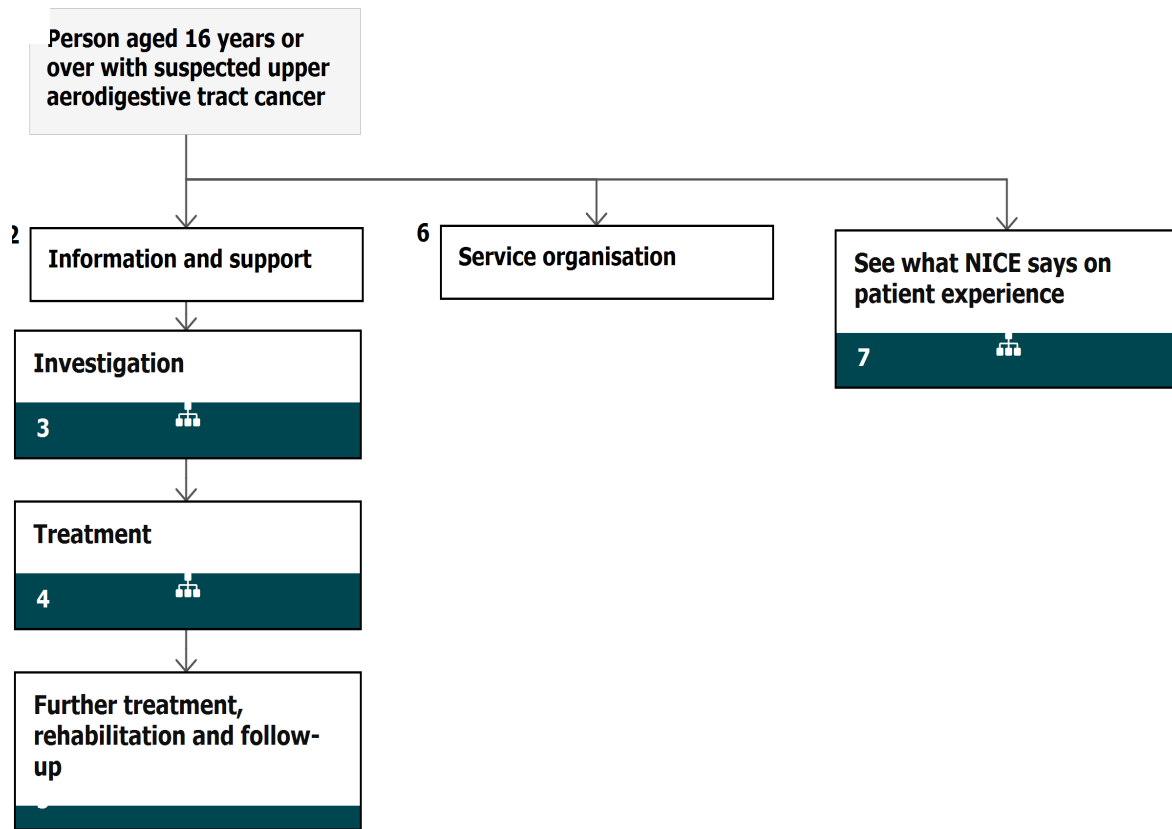
NICE Pathways are interactive and designed to be used online. They are updated regularly as new NICE guidance is published. To view the latest version of this pathway see:

<http://pathways.nice.org.uk/pathways/upper-aerodigestive-tract-cancer>

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This document contains a single pathway diagram and uses numbering to link the boxes to the associated recommendations.

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## 1 Person aged 16 years or over with suspected upper aerodigestive tract cancer

No additional information

## 2 Information and support

For people with cancer of the upper aerodigestive tract and their carers:

- provide consistent information and support at diagnosis
- review their needs throughout the care pathway including at the end of treatment
- tailor information and support to the person's needs (including the benefits and side effects of treatment, psychosocial and long-term functional issues).

Give people contact details for their allocated key worker, in line with the NICE guideline on [improving outcomes in head and neck cancer](#) and recommendations of the [National Peer Review Programme](#).

Give people details of peer support services that can help them throughout their care pathway.

Offer information about HPV to people with HPV-related cancer of the upper aerodigestive tract.

### Smoking cessation

Inform patients and carers at the point of diagnosis about how continuing to smoke adversely affects outcomes such as:

- treatment-related side effects
- risk of recurrence
- risk of second primary cancers.

Offer help to people to stop smoking, in line with NICE's recommendations on [smoking](#).

## 3 Investigation

[See Upper aerodigestive tract cancer / Investigation of upper aerodigestive tract cancer](#)

## 4 Treatment

[See Upper aerodigestive tract cancer / Treatment of upper aerodigestive tract cancer](#)

## 5 Further treatment, rehabilitation and follow-up

[See Upper aerodigestive tract cancer / Further treatment, rehabilitation and follow-up of upper aerodigestive tract cancer](#)

## 6 Service organisation

NICE has produced guidelines on [improving outcomes in head and neck cancers](#) and [improving supportive and palliative care for adults with cancer](#).

See also what NICE says on [opioids for pain relief in palliative care](#) and [end of life care for people with life-limiting conditions](#).

## 7 See what NICE says on patient experience

[See Patient experience in adult NHS services](#)

## Glossary

### FDG PET

fluorodeoxyglucose positron emission tomography

### HPV

human papillomavirus

## Sources

Cancer of the upper aerodigestive tract: assessment and management in people aged 16 and over (2016) NICE guideline NG36

## Your responsibility

The guidance in this pathway represents the view of NICE, which was arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. Those working in the NHS, local authorities, the wider public, voluntary and community sectors and the private sector should take it into account when carrying out their professional, managerial or voluntary duties. Implementation of this guidance is the responsibility of local commissioners and/or providers. Commissioners and providers are reminded that it is their responsibility to implement the guidance, in their local context, in light of their duties to avoid unlawful discrimination and to have regard to promoting equality of opportunity. Nothing in this guidance should be interpreted in a way which would be inconsistent with compliance with those duties.

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