

Head & Neck Cancer Program



For More Information

(602) 406-6949
BarrowNeuro.org/
HeadNeckCancer



About Our Head & Neck Cancer Program

Your head and neck are home to not only the brain and parts of the spinal cord, but a bona fide command center where breathing and digestion are initiated; where thoughts and emotions are conveyed through expressions, words, speech, even singing. It's the region of the body largely responsible for how you survive, interact, and find emotional, social, and spiritual fulfillment.

This is why it's important that you trust your head and neck cancer to a team who can give you everything you need, and anticipate those needs in real time. Our robust team includes:

- Expert ear, nose, and throat (ENT) surgeons who can remove tumors and repair their damage
- Radiation oncologists who can shrink stubborn lesions next to vital or fragile structures
- Medical oncologists who deliver medicines that can stop cancer cells from dividing

Our multidisciplinary team of physicians ensures you can get specialized, comprehensive care without having to leave our campus in the heart of Phoenix. We also have speech-language pathologists on staff who will work to help you retain your ability to eat, drink, and speak.

In addition to our experienced team of head and neck oncology experts, you will have access to a top, globally ranked center for neurology and neurosurgery, along with the complete medical specialties at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center.

We know that the prospect of fighting head and neck cancer can be frightening, but it's not one you have to face alone. Call (602) 406-6949 to speak with our nurse navigator, and find an ally in your fight.

The Barrow Difference

A Complete Team of Oncologists

Most head and neck cancers require close collaboration among physicians in each subspecialty. As such, our oncology care is broken into three subspecialties:

- Surgical Oncology
- Radiation Oncology
- Medical Oncology

At Barrow, our ENT and skull base surgeons have specialty training in the diagnosis and surgical removal of head and neck tumors. They are also trained in procedures and techniques to help maximize your ability to speak, eat, and drink, as well as uphold your physical appearance. These include:

- Transoral robotic surgery (TORS)
- Transoral laser surgery (TLM)
- Free flap and microvascular reconstruction
- Minimally invasive, endoscopic surgical techniques

In addition, our radiation oncologists harness the most advanced tools for radiosurgery: Gamma Knife and Cyberknife. By delivering precisely focused beams of radiation, these treatments can be used to finish off remnants of cancer cells that might be left after surgery, or to shrink tumors and make them more amenable to surgery.

Finally, our medical oncologists are trained to use cutting-edge medicines to stop cancer cells from dividing, while keeping you comfortable and maximizing your quality of life during treatment.

Individualized Care to Preserve Appearance and Function

A truly comprehensive head and neck cancer team isn't solely focused on removing and shrinking tumors—head and neck lesions and their treatments can also impact vital structures like the nose and sinuses, tongue and mouth, the throat, and glands in the mouth and neck.

At Barrow, our team of speech-language pathologists work to ensure our patients retain the

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ability to speak, swallow, and convey emotion whenever possible, even after complex surgical procedures. What's more, our ENT surgeons excel in flap and reconstructive procedures to preserve your appearance, and your ability to express yourself.

Expertly Guided Technology That Minimizes Healing Time

The mouth and throat are crowded, complicated areas that have traditionally demanded complex and difficult procedures, even for highly skilled head and neck surgeons. Yet the advent of robotic technology, along with 3D guidance systems, have greatly increased the ability to remove these tumors using minimally invasive approaches.

Meet the Team

ENT and Skull Base Surgery



Griffin Santarelli, MD

Griffin Santarelli, MD, is an otolaryngologist and director of the Head and Neck Cancer Program at Barrow Neurological Institute. He is board certified by the American Board of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery. His areas of expertise include complex sinus disease, sinonasal tumors, skull base approaches and reconstruction, and complex treatment of head and neck cancer. Dr. Santarelli earned his medical degree from the University of Toledo College of Medicine and Life Sciences in Ohio. He completed his residency in otolaryngology at Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk and fellowship in neurorhinology and open and endoscopic skull base surgery at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Ameya A. Jategaonkar, MD

Ameya A. Jategaonkar, MD, is a head and neck cancer surgeon, vice-director of the Head and Neck Cancer Program, and director of Advanced Oncologic and Reconstructive Surgery at Barrow Neurological Institute, and is board certified by the American Board of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery. He specializes in the surgical treatment of head and neck cancers, transoral robotic surgery, thyroid and parathyroid surgery, open skull base surgery, and microvascular reconstructive surgery of the head and neck. Dr. Jategaonkar earned his medical degree from the University of Arizona College of Medicine—Phoenix. He completed his otolaryngology residency at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City and a fellowship in advanced head and neck oncologic and microvascular reconstructive surgery at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia.



Deborah X. Xie, MD

Deborah X. Xie, MD, is an otolaryngologist at Barrow Neurological Institute. She specializes in the surgical treatment of head and neck cancers, transoral robotic surgery, thyroid and parathyroid surgery, open skull base surgery, microvascular reconstructive surgery of the head and neck, and facial reanimation surgery. Dr. Xie earned her medical degree from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in Nashville, Tennessee. She completed her otolaryngology-head and neck surgery residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland and a fellowship in head and neck surgical oncology/microvascular reconstructive surgery at Indiana University in Indianapolis, Indiana.

At the Barrow Head & Neck Cancer Program, our ENT surgeons use this technology to precisely and painstakingly remove head and neck tumors while minimizing time spent in the hospital and in recovery. In the event of larger tumors, our team of surgeons is skillfully trained in the use of 3D imaging and computer aided design (CAD) techniques to optimize both function and appearance after surgery.

Supporting and repairing your personal command center is no small task—but it is one we're capable of expertly addressing. Allow us to be both your colleague and companion on this journey.

Radiation Oncology



Igor Barani, MD

Igor Barani, MD, is an associate professor and chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology at Barrow Neurological Institute. He is board certified in radiation oncology by the American Board of Radiology. Dr. Barani specializes in the treatment of brain and spine tumors and in the applications of radiosurgery and stereotactic body radiotherapy, intensity-modulated radiation therapy, and brachytherapy. He earned his medical degree from SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, New York. He completed his residency in radiation oncology at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine in Richmond and a research fellowship at Howard Hughes Medical Institute at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).



William R. Kennedy, MD

William Kennedy, MD, is a radiation oncologist and an assistant professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Barrow Neurological Institute. His expertise encompasses the treatment of brain and spine tumors using noninvasive radiosurgery, stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT), image-guided intensity-modulated therapy (IMRT), and brachytherapy. Dr. Kennedy earned his medical degree from the University of Florida College of Medicine in Gainesville. He completed his internal medicine internship at Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital in Greensboro, North Carolina, and his residency in radiation oncology at Washington University School of Medicine and Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri.