

**SALVAGE SURGERY FOR
RECURRENT SCC- HEAD &
NECK (SYSTEMATIC REVIEW &
META-ANALYSIS)**

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Head & Neck Cancer Surgery

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Recurrent cancers of oral cavity



Recurrent Cancers



- Features :

1. More infiltrative
2. Multifocal
3. Throws microscopic deposits (outside the treated field)
4. Extensive perineural invasion

Recurrent Cancers (Issues)

Extensive fibrosis & altered anatomy

FROZEN SECTION analysis : difficult



Challenges

- 1. Salvage surgery : permanent loss of function
- 2. Visible deformity
- 3. High economic cost
- 4. Even death

COUNSELLING

- Provide realistic expectations of the treatment outcomes .
- Complications and side effects : should be clearly defined .
- Functional outcomes : clearly identified

FACTS



- 1. 25- 48% : advanced cancers : treated non- surgically ----- FAIL .
- 2. Recurrence usually occur within the first two years .
- 3. Benefits of cure : DO NOT justify excess morbidity with poor quality of life .
- 4. Long DFI : salvage surgery vs CCRT : SURGERY - better results

Recurrences <> TREATMENT

- Trade off between :

- **TREATMENT MORBIDITY**



Potential to cure

SALVAGE SURGERY FOR RECURRENT SCC- HEAD & NECK

- Data on clinical outcome : Scarce
5- yr OS : 6 – 70% *
- Wide range of studies : Majorly - small retrospective studies
Heterogeneity : pt. characteristics
pri. Treatment for initial tumour
type of salvage resection
with / without re-radiation

* Elbers JBW et al. Eur Arch Otorhinolaryngol.2019;276(3):647-655

Salvage Surgery for Patients With Recurrent Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Upper Aerodigestive Tract: When Do the Ends Justify the Means?

W. Jarrard Goodwin, Jr., MD

META-ANALYSIS

1633 Patients

32 Different Institutions

1980 - 1998

STUDY DESIGN

**Meta-analysis of published
literature (32 reports)**

**Prospective Observational
Study (109 patients).**

Overall Survival

Disease – free survival

Surgical complications

Operative mortality

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1080 pts. (meta-analysis)

5 - yr OS : 39.4%

META-ANALYSIS

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CONCLUSION

Expected efficacy for salvage surgery in patients with recurrent head & neck cancer was surprisingly good.

TABLE II.

Weighted Averages of Survival End-Points From Publications in the Meta-analysis.

	3-Year Survival		5-Year Survival		2-Year Disease Free	
	Patients	%	Patients	%	Patients	%
Overall	319	37	1080	39	499	51
Early larynx	N/A	N/A	68	83	156	84
All larynx	56	53	293	48	203	76
Oral cavity	N/A	N/A	116	43	239	36
Pharynx	263	34	266	26	57	25

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Two-Year Disease-Free Survival After Salvage Surgery.

Prospective Observational Study

Stage (<i>P</i> = .0005)		Site (<i>P</i> = .0645)		Meta-Analysis Site
I	73%	Pharynx	28%*	24%
II	67%*	Oral cavity	47%*	36%
III	33%*	Larynx	58%	76%
IV	22%	Neck	25%	N/A
Total	44%		44%	51%

*Maximum percent, since follow-up does not cover 2 full years for some patients.

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Study Design :

Meta-analysis of published
literature (32 reports)

Prospective observational
study (109 pt.s)

Surgical complications : Total complications : 7 studies : 39% (10 – 88%)

Major complications : 8 studies : 27% (5 – 48%)

Operative mortality : 18 studies : 718 patients ----- Av. 5.2% (0 – 18%)

Complications (10-88%) *Goodwin W jr. *Laryngoscope*2000; 110:1

MAJOR (5 – 48%)

- Large salivary fistula
- Partial / Total flap necrosis
- Pneumonia
- Carotid rupture
- Cerebrovascular accident

MINOR

- Wound infection
- Small salivary fistula
- Wound dehiscence
- Minor flap necrosis

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CONCLUSION

Expected Efficacy of SALVAGE SURGERY :

1. Strong correlation : with the stage of recurrent cancer (70% : Early disease : SS justifiable)
2. Survival and DFS : best correlation – recurrent stage
3. Improvement in the quality of life : correlation with stage & site

Salvage surgery for recurrent squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck: Systematic review and meta-analysis

Mustafa G. Bulbul MD, MPH^{1,2} | Timothy J. Genovese MPH^{2,3} |
Kobina Hagan MD, MPH^{2,4} | Soham Rege MPH^{2,5} | Ahad Qureshi MD^{2,6} |
Mark A. Varvares MD^{6,7}

Retrospective studies
(15)
Meta-analysis of HR
estimates

No RCT

CLINICAL REVIEW

WILEY

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15 studies :

5- year OS : Salvage surgery group
(26 – 67 %)

Non-surgical group
(0 -- 32 %)

6 studies : Mortality rate : one- fourth
in the surgical group
(salvage surgery vs non-
surgical group)

Decision making in the management of recurrent head and neck cancer

Allen S. Ho, MD,¹ Dennis H. Kraus, MD,¹ Ian Ganly, MD, PhD,¹ Nancy Y. Lee, MD,² Jatin P. Shah, MD,¹ Luc G. T. Morris, MD, MSc^{1*}

¹Head and Neck Service, Department of Surgery, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, New York, ²Department of Radiation Oncology, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, New York

Prognostic factors (patient factors) *

(Allen S et al. Head & Neck 2013)

Positive factors

- 1. Good KPS (100-80)
- 2. Good functional status
- 3. No comorbidity

Negative factors

- Poor performance status
- Poor functional status
- Comorbidities

Prognostic factors (tumour factors)*

*

(Allen S et al. Head & Neck 2013)

Positive factors

- Early disease
- Long DFI
- Larynx : better
- No previous treatment

Negative factors

- Stage – III & IV
- Short DFI
- Non- laryngeal site
- Previous chemotherapy

Prognostic factors (tumour factors)

- Patients with good chance of cure :
 1. Surgically resectable
 2. Have long DFI
 3. No nodal metastases
 4. Early disease



Prognostic factors in salvage surgery for recurrent head and neck cancer: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Valentina Lupato ^a, Vittorio Giacomarra ^a, Salvatore Alfieri ^b, Giuseppe Fanetti ^c, Jerry Polesel ^d

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Poor prognostic factors:-

PRE SURGERY:-

Age >60

Advanced stage disease

Early recurrence

Regional failure

POST SURGERY:-

Positive margin

Extracapsular spread

Perineural invasion

Surgical salvage even with
negative margins :



Overall failure rate : 47% *

Radiation & chemotherapy resistance

Submucosal microscopic nests (multiple)

Perineural / perivascular / perilymphatic invasion

*Jones AS. *Br J Cancer*1996;74: 128-132



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SPECIALTY SECTION
This article was submitted to
Head and Neck Cancer,

The application of salvage surgery improves the quality of life and overall survival of extensively recurrent head and neck cancer after multiple operation plus radiotherapy

Lirui Zhang¹, Qiaoshi Xu¹, Huan Liu, Bo Li, Hao Wang, Chang Liu, Jinzhong Li, Bin Yang, Lizheng Qin, Zhengxue Han and Zhien Feng*

Department of Oral and Maxillofacial-Head and Neck Oncology, Beijing Stomatological Hospital, Capital Medical University, Beijing, China

2015 ---- 2021

QOL : QLQ – HN35
UW-QOL

1362 PATIENTS

Results :

Median OS : better –
Surgical arm

Mean Overall QOL score :
higher --- surgical arm

CONCLUSION

Salvage surgeries : Radical , morbid , technically challenging .

Over riding goal in Salvage treatment : Accept survival , NOT function .

Advances in reconstructive surgery : more patients for salvage resection / less complications .

CONCLUSION

TREATMENT OF RECURRENT CANCERS

TRADE OFF :



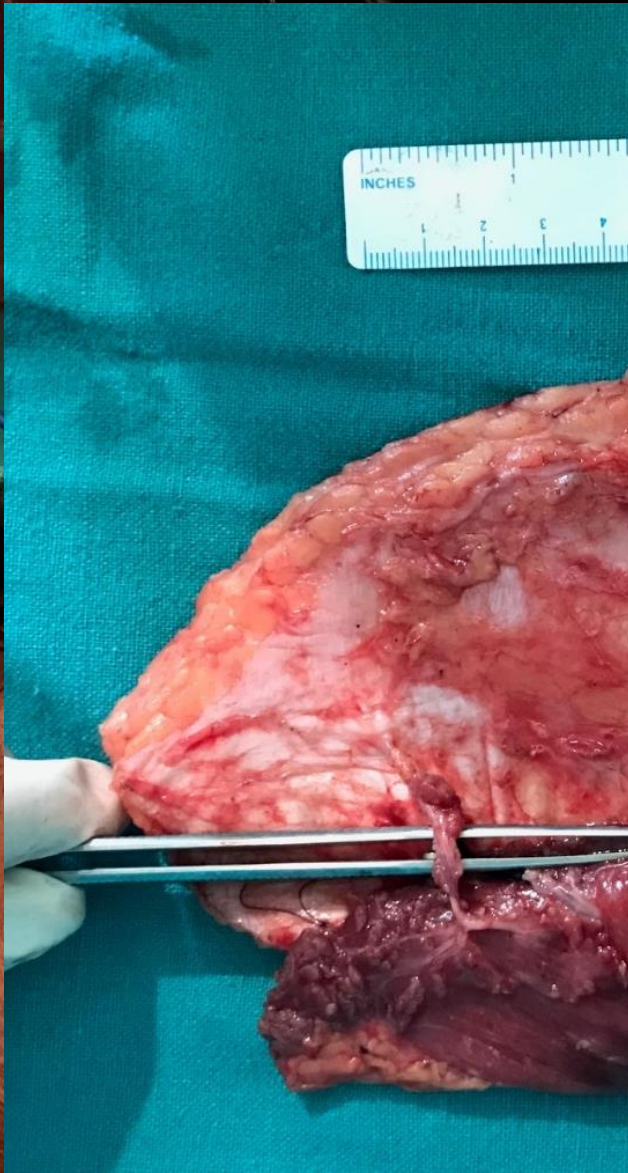
TREATMENT morbidity

TREATMENT toxicity

Potential to CURE

Questions - unanswered

- 1. Salvage surgery vs salvage re-irradiation / chemoradiation : in resectable disease : any improvement in OS (SS)
- 2. Immunotherapy vs Salvage surgery
- 3. Salvage surgery vs Palliative care : QOL outcomes.



Extensive recurrence
reconstructed with free ALT flap



Multiple Recurrences- Salvaged surgically



A chipmunk is the central focus, standing on a mossy mound and holding a small red lantern in its paws. The background is a soft-focus forest with green foliage and bokeh light effects. The overall tone is warm and celebratory.

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Onco-reconstructive surgeon

THANK YOU