



News

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Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Week : 17 – 21 September 2018

Did you know that ?

- Head and neck cancer is the 6th most common type of cancer worldwide (1).
- 223.000 people around the world die from head and neck cancer every year (1).
- 600.000 new cases are diagnosed each year globally (2).
- Head and neck cancer is more than twice as common among men as it is among women (3).
- Increasing numbers of people are surviving treatment (4), which can in part be attributed to lifestyle changes (e.g. decline in tobacco use) and earlier diagnosis.

Sharing knowledge is essential in the fight against cancer.

17-21 September 2018 is European Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Week. Cancers originating in the mouth, nose, throat, larynx, sinuses or salivary glands - broadly known as head and neck cancer represent a unique burden. The good news is that an increasing number of people are surviving treatment and that the survival rate of patients diagnosed at an early stage amounts to 80-90% (5).

Head and neck cancer is an area we've been engaged in for years at Merck Healthcare. We're in the midst right now of research that we hope will contribute to a further improvement in survival rates.

It's important for survivors of head and neck cancer to know that they are not alone.

This year, in line with the Make Sense Campaign's three-year theme, 'Supporting Survivorship', Merck's campaign – 'Stand Up for Survivors' will raise awareness around the psychological and physical challenges faced by survivors following their treatment.

As a part of the European Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Week, we are proud to stand up for survivors and those who have beaten head and neck cancer.

Raising awareness is a critical part of diagnosing disease at the earliest stage, increasing the chances for a cancer patient to become a survivor. Together we can #StandUpForSurvivors.



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References :

- (1) Head and Neck Cancer. Union for International Cancer Control. 2014 Review of Cancer Medicines on the WHO List of Essential Medicines: Locally Advanced Squamous Carcinoma of the Head and Neck. Available at: http://www.who.int/selection_medicines/committees/expert/20/applications/HeadNeck.pdf Last accessed Sept. 2018.
- (2) Head and Neck Cancers. National Institutes of Health. Available at: <https://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/condition/head-and-neck-squamous-cell-carcinoma#statistics> Last accessed Sept. 2018.
- (3) National Cancer Institute. Head and Neck Cancers. Available at: <https://www.cancer.gov/types/head-and-neck/head-neck-fact-sheet> Last accessed Sept. 2018.
- (4) Pulte D, Brenner H. Changes in Survival in Head and Neck Cancers in the Late 20th and Early 21st Century: A Period Analysis. *The Oncologist*. 2010; 15 (9): 994-1001
- (5) About Head and Neck Cancer. Signs and Symptoms. Make Sense Campaign. Available at: <https://makesensecampaign.eu/en/cancer-information/head-neck-cancer> Last accessed Sept. 2018.

About Merck

Merck is an innovative German company in the field of healthcare, life sciences and performance materials, active in Belgium since 1951. Through its Biopharma activities, our Healthcare division aims to help create, improve and prolong life and to encourage innovation in science and technology to make a lasting difference for patients in areas of unmet medical need.

In 2018, Merck celebrates 350 years! Since 1668, curiosity and a great sense of responsibility have been driving our business every day. We put our tradition at the service of the present and the future.

Important

The information contained is intended for distribution in Belgium and the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg only. Any medical information is not intended as a substitute for informed medical advice. Patients and healthcare professionals should be advised to check with local medical resources.

Annexes :

Infographic 'Stand up for Survivors'
Text in pdf