

## Head and Neck Reconstruction

Tumors that affect the regions of the head and neck may require surgery. This may affect the way patients are able to speak and swallow. Plastic surgeons with an interest in head and neck tumours are uniquely placed as they have expertise not only in the resection of such growths but also in the reconstruction of the defects created by the surgery. Reconstructive surgery allows for patients to achieve the best possible result to maintain as much function as possible.

Reconstructive Plastic surgeons work all over the body, but in the head and neck region this may mean reconstructing:

- Cheek
- Nose
- Eyelids
- Forehead
- Ears
- Jaw
- Chin
- Tongue
- Palate
- Neck
- Esophagus

Benign tumours can be treated with the removal of small growths and cysts from the salivary glands located in front of the ears, the regions beneath the jaw or within the oral cavity. Surgery is usually the only treatment required for these lesions however scars and residual cosmetic deformities can be minimised.

Treating malignant tumours of the head and neck region is complicated. Most larger tumours require involvement of plastic surgeons and other specialists and allied medical staff in a multidisciplinary environment.

Smaller lesions may be treated with local resection and reconstruction using techniques that we are familiar with through our surgical training. The ears, nose, eyelids and lips are specific structures that require aesthetically and functionally acceptable restoration using procedures that are offered by other specialties involved in the management of skin cancers.