



Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Testing in Head and Neck Carcinomas Guideline

The College of American Pathologists 2017 evidence-based guideline details testing for HPV in certain types of head and neck cancers. Patients with HPV-positive oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinomas (OPSCCs) have a better prognosis and may be candidates for less aggressive treatment.



Pathologists...

SHOULD perform high-risk (HR) HPV on all patients with newly diagnosed OPSCC

SHOULD NOT routinely perform HR-HPV testing on patients with nonoropharyngeal primary tumors of the head and neck

SHOULD NOT provide a tumor grade or differentiation status for HPV-positive/p16-positive OPSCCs

This guideline will help to ensure:

- Eligible patients receive consistent, accurate assessment of HPV status
- Clinicians design and deliver treatment plans tailored to the pathology and needs of each patient

Refer to the guideline manuscript to see all 14 recommendations.

