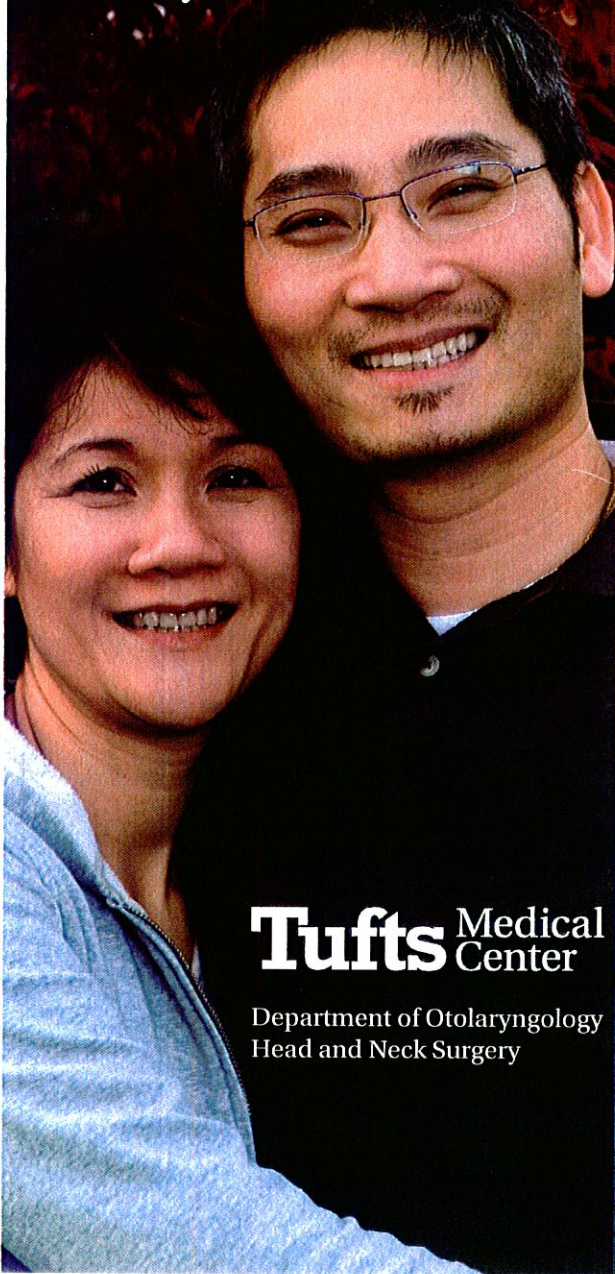


Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma:

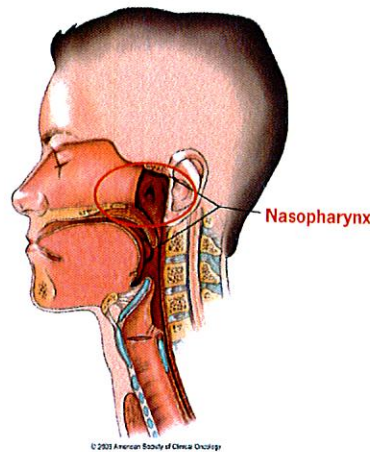
Facts you need to know



Tufts Medical Center

Department of Otolaryngology
Head and Neck Surgery

Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma, also known as “NPC”, is a cancer that grows in an area of the body called the nasopharynx. The nasopharynx is located in the back of the nose and above the back of the throat. It is common in the Southern Chinese and Southeast Asian population.



Causes of nasopharyngeal carcinoma

- Genetics “runs in the family”
- Infections i.e. Epstein Bar Virus
- Salt cured foods

Highest risk for nasopharyngeal carcinoma

- Immigrants and family members from: Southern China provinces (Guangdong, Guangxi), Hong Kong, Macau, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, Taiwan, Philippines and Indonesia.
- Immediate relatives with nasopharyngeal carcinoma
- Men between the ages of 40 to 60 are more likely to develop the cancer, but it can also be found among women and all other age groups.

Symptoms for nasopharyngeal carcinoma

- A lump or growth in the neck
- Many bloody noses or blood in the saliva
- Blocked nose
- Feeling fluid in an ear with loss of hearing
- Ear pain
- Difficulty swallowing

Important!!!

In the early stages of the cancer, you may not have any symptoms, making it difficult to recognize. The signs may also be common like a runny nose

or blocked nose, and can easily be ignored. If ignored too long, many patients present in an advanced stage, after the cancer has grown beyond the nasopharynx to other areas of the body.

Diagnosis

- Your doctor will ask about signs and symptoms that are common with the cancer.
- He/She will perform an exam of your head and neck to look and feel for signs of cancer growth.
- He/She may need to look in your nose with a tiny camera to best look for cancer.

Treatment

Radiation therapy
Chemotherapy

Screening

Individuals at highest risk for NPC can be screened to detect any early signs or symptoms of NPC, allowing better response to treatment and higher chances of a cure.

Why Tufts Medical Center?

Compared to the national average:

- Tufts Medical Center sees three times more NPC patients
- Patients treated in our facility also show a higher survival rate

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