

PRESS RELEASE

Oral Cancer Task Force's Consensus Guidelines for Head & Neck Cancer Recognized Among 13 Worldwide Clinical Practice Guidelines

Bengaluru, India, Feb 5, 2024:

The **Consensus Guidelines for the Management of Head and Neck Cancer (HNC)**, developed under the aegis of **Oral Cancer Task Force (OCTF)** supported by the **Biocon Foundation**, has been recognized amongst the 13 worldwide clinical practice guidelines by [Cancers](#), an international, peer-reviewed, open access journal of oncology.

The OCTF's consensus guidelines was included in journal *Cancers* as part of a scoping review that identified and compared the worldwide clinical practice guidelines for treating oral, oropharynx, and larynx cancer. This recognition acknowledges the global significance of the OCTF's efforts and positions its consensus guidelines among those from U.S., Europe, Canada, Japan, and the National Comprehensive Cancer Network® (NCCN®).

In 2018, Biocon Foundation, the CSR arm of the Biocon Group, took the initiative to form the [OCTF](#) with a mission to ideate, educate and engage stakeholders and thereby, effectively downstage oral cancer in India. The OCTF is an independent, multi-disciplinary task force comprising leading oncologists from across India. Under the aegis of OCTF, the first ever Indian clinical practice guidelines on management of HNC were laid down and published in the *Indian Journal of Cancer* in February 2020.

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Founder & Managing Trustee, Biocon Foundation, and OCTF Member, said, *"We are exceptionally proud that the Consensus Guidelines for the Management of Head and Neck Cancer developed by the Oral Cancer Task Force (OCTF) with support from the Biocon Foundation, has been recognized among the 13 worldwide clinical practice guidelines in Cancers, an international peer-reviewed journal of oncology. This acknowledgment reflects the collaborative efforts of our dedicated experts and underscores our commitment to making a positive impact on the landscape of head and neck cancer management, particularly in the context of the prevalent oral cancer cases in India."*

Dr. Anupama Shetty, Mission Director, Biocon Foundation, said, *"At the Biocon Foundation, we have been working at the ground level to downsize oral cancer, which is predominant in India. The India-specific consensus guidelines have been developed by national experts of OCTF and is also informed by the Foundation's decade-long experience and research in the domain. The inclusion of these guidelines in the Cancer Journal's systematic review of worldwide treatment recommendations for head and neck cancer is a remarkable milestone for the OCTF and a testament to the dedication and expertise of its members."*

According to GLOBOCAN 2020 report, HNCs is the most common cancer among men and 4th among women in India. Every year, 225,419 new HNC cases and 125,244 deaths from the disease are reported in India. This is owing to the consumption of tobacco and alcohol,

especially in the rural regions. To address the issue, **Biocon Foundation** has been conducting oral cancer screenings for the underserved communities since 2011.





Responding to the need for India-specific guidelines to treat HNC patients, the OCTF had in 2018 started the exercise to tailor treatment recommendations to demographics, technological/human resources and usual local practices. The first edition of the guidelines was published in the [Indian Journal of Cancer](#) in February 2020. The second, updated edition was officially launched at the 4th edition of the OCTF Conference in July 2023 and was published in the [Journal of Cancer Research Statistics and Treatment](#), further underscoring their significance and contribution to the field.

HNCs account for approximately 30-40% of all cancer cases in India¹. The guidelines include details on how the causative factors in India differ from those in other countries. The factors consist of extensive use of tobacco, pan masala (betel quid, areca nut, and slaked lime), and gutka. Given the high incidence of HNC and limitations of access to treatment, these updated guidelines are crucial to optimizing treatment outcomes and achieving the highest possible success rates in treatment for HNC patients.



Systematic Review

Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Oral Cavity, Oropharynx, and Larynx: A Scoping Review of Treatment Guidelines Worldwide

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¹ https://journals.lww.com/crst/fulltext/2024/07001/introduction_to_indian_clinical_practice_consensus.1.aspx

Table 1. Clinical practice guidelines description per countries, societies/organizations, and anatomical site.

Country/ Continent	Guideline	Society/Organization	Anatomical Site Covered	Year of Publication
Africa	Guidelines for low-resource regions	African Head and Neck Society	Oral Cavity	2019
Asia	Consensus recommendations for management of HNC in Asian countries	The Asia Pacific HNC Expert Panel	Head and Neck	2013
	Pan-Asian Adaptation of the European Society for Medical Oncology	European Society for Medical Oncology and Korean Society of Medical Oncology	Head and Neck	2021
Canada	Clinical practice guideline	Cancer Care Ontario's HNC disease site group	Larynx	2013
China	Diagnosis and treatment guidelines for HNC working group	Chinese Society of Clinical Oncology	Head and Neck	2019
Denmark	The Danish National Guidelines	Danish Society for Head and Neck Oncology	Oral Cavity	2006
Europe	EHNS-ESMO-ESTRO Clinical Practice Guidelines	The EHNS Executive Board, ESMO Guidelines Committee, and ESTRO Executive Board	Head and Neck	2020
Germany	The German S3 Guideline	German Cancer Society and German Cancer Aid	Larynx	2020
India	Indian Clinical Practice Consensus	Oral Cancer Task Force with a Multidisciplinary Expert Panel	Oropharynx	2020
			Oral Cavity	2020
	Indian Council of Medical Research Consensus	Indian Council of Medical Research	Larynx	2020
	Japanese Clinical Practice Guideline for HNC	Japan Society for Head and Neck Cancer	Oral cavity	2015
Japan			Head and Neck	2017

Know more: www.oralcancertaskforce.org

About Biocon Foundation:

Biocon Foundation, the Corporate Social Responsibility arm of Biocon, Biocon Biologics and Syngene International, has been working to empower marginalized communities since 2005. Biocon Foundation partners with the society to promote social and economic inclusion. It has thus made significant investments in enhancing access to quality healthcare, education, and civic infrastructure along with environmental sustainability projects. Combined with field initiatives, these programs create a momentum to elevate the marginalized sections of the society. Over the years, Biocon Foundation has built a strong reputation for the quality of its programs and their impact in addressing the social, humanitarian, and environmental challenges facing India. To make a more meaningful impact, the Foundation regularly partners with government agencies and like-minded organizations for program delivery. Besides addressing critical national and state level challenges in primary healthcare, education and rural development, the Foundation is also augmenting environmental sustainability through the lake revival mission in Bengaluru. Visit: <http://www.bioconfoundation.org>

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