HNCIG Top 10 Research Priorities

1	In patients who have received neoadjuvant therapy (including immunotherapy), does subsequent surgery need to return to the original margins?
2	To what extent does extranodal extension warrant escalation of adjuvant treatment (e.g., chemoradiotherapy instead of radiotherapy alone) in HPV-positive and HPV-negative head and neck cancers?
3	What is the optimal combination of radiotherapy including elective nodal irradiation (timing, target volume, dose, dose fractionation, omission of ENI) and immunotherapy in the definitive management of head and neck squamous cell carcinoma?
4	In HPV-associated oropharyngeal cancer, how does de-escalated treatment (e.g., reduced-dose radiation, chemotherapy, or surgery) compare with standard treatment in terms of survival and toxicity?
5,6	For patients with locally advanced head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (LA-HNSCC), what is the relative contribution of neoadjuvant and adjuvant components in combined treatment regimens such as KN-689?
5,6	What is the role of circulating human papillomavirus (HPV) DNA–response–adapted (baseline and interim) radiation dose de-escalation (including elective nodal dose and volume) and follow-up in HPV-positive oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma treated with definitive (chemo)radiotherapy?
7	Does circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA) provide superior surveillance compared to imaging for HPV-related oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma (OPSCC)?
8	Can comprehensive geriatric assessment (CGA) and frailty assessment effectively identify older head and neck cancer patients most likely to benefit from curative-intent chemoradiotherapy (CRT) compared with standard radiotherapy alone?
9	In patients with locally advanced oropharyngeal cancer, which primary approach, surgical or non-surgical, offers better outcomes?
10	What is the role of biologically guided, response-adapted radiotherapy (using baseline and interim ^{18}F-FDG PET) for radiation dose de-escalation in HPV-positive oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma treated with definitive (chemo)radiotherapy?

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