

NASOPHARYNGEAL CARCINOMA

Nasopharyngeal carcinoma (NPC) is a cancer that can be found behind the nose above the back of the throat in the nasopharynx. It can occur in the general population, but affects persons of Southeast Asian, North African and Arctic descent disproportionately. Early detection significantly improves potential outcomes for those affected, but is difficult.

Additional risk factors include, but are not limited to being infected with the Epstein-Barr virus, family

history of NPC, heavy alcohol or tobacco use, and eating large quantities of salt-cured fish and meats frequently.

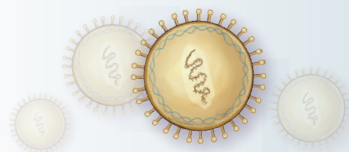
Persistent nasal congestion, unilateral ear problems, or swollen lymph nodes in the neck are often the first physical signs for NPC. Additionally patients with NPC may experience nosebleeds, headaches, and facial pain or numbness. Having these signs does not mean a person has NPC, but may indicate other conditions.

A biopsy and MRI/CT imaging study can give a definitive answer.

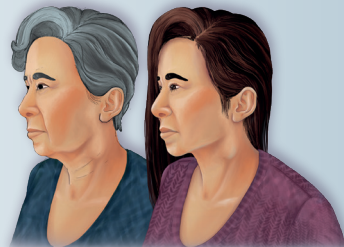
Common treatment plans include surgical removal of the tumor, radiation therapy, and chemotherapy. Despite successful treatment, NPC may recur later in life.

Risk factors

Can include, but are not limited to:



Epstein-Barr virus



Family history of NPC



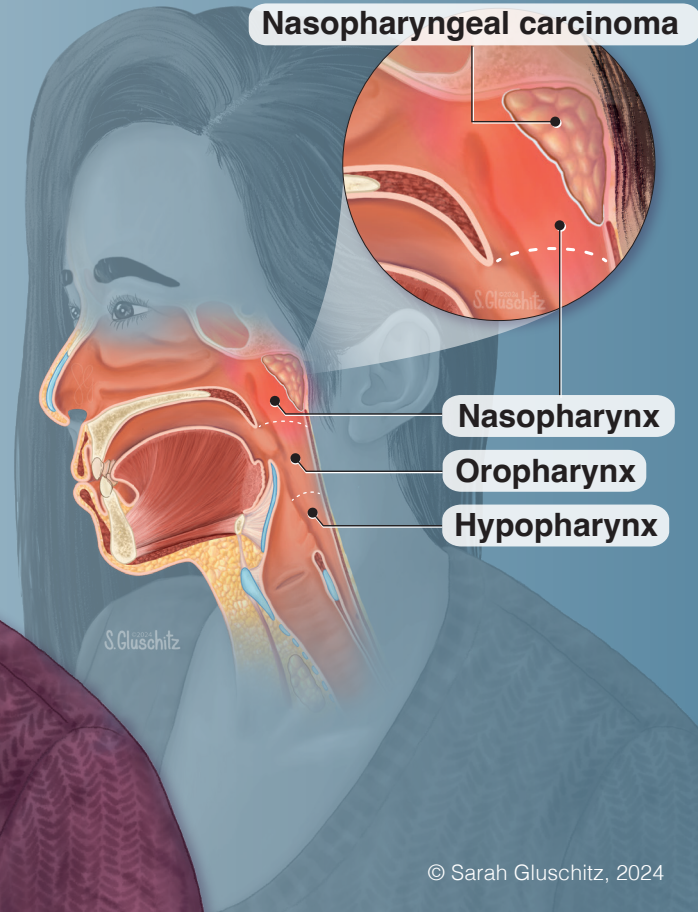
Eating large quantities of salt-cured fish and meats



Heavy tobacco use



Heavy alcohol use



Nasopharyngeal carcinoma

Nasopharynx

Oropharynx

Hypopharynx