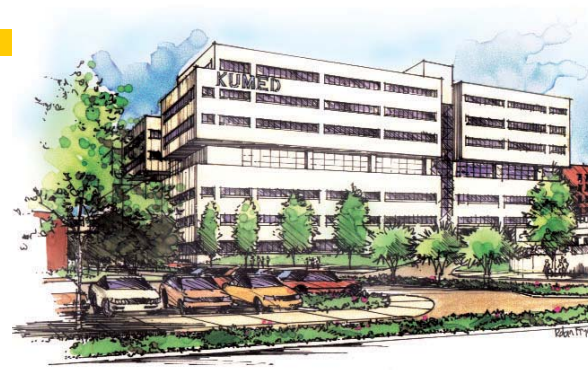


# MEDICAL SPOTLIGHT

for Physicians and Health Care Professionals  
from The University of Kansas Hospital



## HEAD AND NECK CANCER SPECIALISTS ARE THE REGION'S MOST RESPECTED EXPERTS

When your patients with head and neck cancer come to The University of Kansas Hospital for treatment, they'll receive comprehensive care provided by a specialty-trained team of health care professionals. Our team includes otolaryngologists, medical and radiation oncologists, radiologists, neurosurgeons, orthopedic surgeons, anesthesiologists, cytopathologists, nurses, speech and swallowing therapists, dentists and prosthodontists. Each year, they care for hundreds of patients with throat and other head and neck cancers.

Patients appreciate the hospital's multidisciplinary approach to cancer, in which a team of specialists works together to provide an accurate diagnosis and develop the best treatment strategy. All head and neck cancer patients' cases are discussed during a tumor conference to obtain a multidisciplinary recommendation for treatment.

### Getting the Right Diagnosis and Treatment

Head and neck cancers can develop in the mouth, throat, sinuses, nasal cavity, larynx, salivary glands and thyroid gland. More than 30,000 new cases of thyroid cancer are diagnosed in the United States each year, although many patients don't experience symptoms until the disease has reached an advanced stage.

As with any cancer, early detection is the key to successful treatment. The University of Kansas Hospital provides state-of-the-art cancer diagnostic services. Our full spectrum of imaging procedures includes computer assisted tomography (CT or CAT) scans, positron emission tomography (PET) scans, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and ultrasound.

*Endoscopic laser removal of cancer eliminates the need for extensive surgical exposure, which can require complicated reconstruction.*

For more information or to refer a patient, call 913-588-5862 or toll free 877-588-5862. Or visit our Web site at [kumed.com](http://kumed.com).

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**Douglas Girod, MD**  
Otolaryngologist



**Chung-Tsen Hsueh, MD, PhD**  
Medical Oncologist



**Philip Johnson, MD**  
Interventional Radiologist



**Eashwer Reddy, MD**  
Radiation Oncologist

In addition, ours is the only hospital in the Kansas City area that offers on-demand needle biopsies with same-day results. This saves patients multiple office visits and days of waiting. Similarly, patients who need evaluation by a speech therapist can be treated in the hospital's laryngeal and voice lab during the same visit.

The University of Kansas Hospital offers surgery, chemotherapy, radiation and a combination of these treatments. Our experienced surgeons are often able to treat cancers that others consider untreatable. As nationally recognized leaders in the management of head and neck disorders, they offer patients many innovative treatments that make use of the most advanced technology.

## Endoscopic Laser Removal and Reconstructive Surgery

One of these innovative treatments is endoscopic laser removal of cancer from the mouth, throat and larynx. During this procedure, a laser cuts away microscopic amounts of tissue, which are immediately evaluated under a microscope to determine if they are cancerous.

This gradual technique preserves healthy tissue and function. It also eliminates the need for extensive surgical exposure, which can dismantle important throat structures and, as a result, require complicated reconstructive procedures. With endoscopic laser removal, swallowing, breathing and voice can often be preserved. With more aggressive open surgical techniques, they might be lost or significantly impaired.

For patients who are not good candidates for endoscopic laser removal of tumors, surgery is sometimes followed by reconstructive surgery. The University of Kansas Hospital is the only hospital in the region with a team of microvascular surgeons experienced in head and neck reconstruction. These experts provide reconstructive surgical techniques that restore or preserve patients' function and appearance. New minimally invasive endoscopic techniques have also been developed for the management of thyroid cancer patients.

## Non-Surgical Treatments

The hospital also provides all forms of internal and external radiation therapy to patients with head and neck cancers. These include intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT), internal high-dose radiation therapy (HDRT), 3-D conformal beam radiation, brachytherapy and combination therapy. Chemotherapy may be used alone or combined with radiation treatments to control advanced head and neck cancer that is either inoperable or has metastasized.

Members of our head and neck cancer team actively participate in clinical trials that put them on the leading edge of new treatments such as genetic therapy and anti-growth factor therapy.

## Continuing Care

The University of Kansas Hospital's commitment to your patients' health continues into recovery. The hospital's experienced rehabilitation experts help patients with head and neck cancers regain function after treatment and surgery. Speech therapy, swallowing therapy, reconstructive and cosmetic rehabilitation, and dental rehabilitation are commonly part of the treatment for these patients. ■



**Lisa Shnyder, MD**  
Otolaryngologist



**Terance Tsue, MD**  
Otolaryngologist



**Fen Wang, MD, PhD**  
Radiation Oncologist

## Other Head and Neck Cancer Staff

**Dorothy Austin, RN, OCN**  
Cancer Coordinator, Otolaryngology

**Kristen Linnemeyer, MA**  
Speech Pathologist