

**Mayo Clinic Minute: Improved treatments for head and neck cancer**

VIDEO	AUDIO
	In the past, treatment for head and neck cancer was referred to as “heavy handed.” Often curing the cancer, but with long-term side effects.
<b>Eric Moore, M.D.</b> <b>Otorhinolaryngology</b> <b>Mayo Clinic</b>	“Trouble swallowing, chronic dry mouth, pain in their neck, scarring and fibrosis, difficulty eating, difficulty speaking.”
	But now in the new era of minimally invasive surgery...
	“We have one of the greatest access points in the body at our disposal, the mouth. If we can get our instruments into the mouth and get visualization in the mouth, then we can approach the tumor and take it out without any significant incisions.”
	Once the tumor is removed, treatment still may include decreased doses of radiation therapy, chemotherapy and immunotherapy.
	“More than 90% of the tumors that we see are treated and cured. So the prognosis is good.”
	“And we want the treatment effect to be as minimal as possible as that person goes on to live year after year.”
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I’m Jason Howland.