We also offer particular expertise in using non-surgical approaches, such as radiation therapy alone or combined with chemotherapy. Depending on the extent of the initial cancer, non-surgical approaches may be the best way to save the voice box and cure the cancer.

Our research team has completed two studies—the most comprehensive and largest to date—that demonstrate the effectiveness of the da Vinci Surgical Robotic System® to perform Trans-Oral Robotic Surgery (TORS) which greatly reduces surgical trauma for patients. Our physicians anticipate that the application of the da Vinci System to treat mouth and throat cancers will allow for complete tumor removal while helping to preserve voice and swallowing function. The da Vinci Robot has been FDA-approved, and successfully treated many late-stage and surgically incurable patients. Patients are reaping the benefits with decreased bleeding, less pain, and improved voice function.

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Penn supports research on the development of new diagnostic and treatment tools. For example, Penn is currently testing innovative treatments such as hyperbaric oxygen as a way to restore blood flow after surgery through a $10 million National Institutes for Health grant.

Penn’s head and neck resection program uses state-of-the-art endoscopic techniques to preserve appearance and function.

We have one of the largest thyroid cancer programs on the East Coast. Our thyroid team is comprised of specialists who are experts in the field of endocrinology, pathology, and nuclear medicine. They are leaders in their fields, adept at the most current trends towards thyroid cancer and experienced in offering the best possible treatment options.

We provide comprehensive evaluation as well as integrated medical and surgical management for patients with thyroid cancer. Including minimally invasive ultrasound-guided trans-oral biopsy of the thyroid and state-of-the-art imaging using such advanced technology as Positron Emission Tomography (PET).

Penn performs twice as many thyroid operations—more than three times as many parathyroid operations—as other area hospitals.

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Penn’s Cranial Base Surgery Team is renowned for its cutting-edge, minimally-invasive and endoscopic approach to tumors. This approach, which minimizes external incisions, aids in quicker recovery, less pain, and improved cosmetic outcomes.

We use a variety of techniques for cranial base surgery including: magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), magnetic resonance angiography (MRA), functional MRI, three-dimensional CT angiography, cranial blood flow studies, and super selective angiography for precise understanding of the location and size of cranial base tumors, critical to treatment planning.

Other state-of-the-art techniques employed during cranial base surgery include: neurophysiological monitoring to provide real-time information about brain and nerve function resulting in increased safety and decreased length of surgery; and the use of microcarbines and angiography to improve the ability to see vessels during surgery and thus, reduce blood loss.

Post-operative care for cranial base surgery patients is provided in the Neurosurgical Intensive Care Unit which is dedicated to caring for patients having surgery involving the central nervous system.

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Focus on Head and Neck Cancers

An Educational Conference for Those Affected by Head and Neck Cancers

Registration

To register or for more information, call 800-789-PENN or register online via OneLink at onclink.upenn.edu/conference/

Registration Deadline: Monday, April 9, 2007

Registration Fee

$10 Per Person

Registration fee may be waived for financial difficulty. Scholarships are available. When calling or going online to register, please let us know if a scholarship is needed.

Registration fee may be paid online with credit card or on the day of the conference with cash, check or money order.

If you need overnight accommodations, call 215-879-3399 and ask to speak with Randy Schaller.

Self-parking is available at the Hilton and will be validated. For directions to the Hilton on City Avenue, call the hotel at 215-879-4000.

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