

## Section Three: Staging head and neck cancer

*Tekiona Toru:*  
Te whakawāhanga  
matepukupuku upoko  
me te kaki



### Key points:

- Staging describes the size of your cancer, and if it has spread to lymph nodes or other parts of your body.
- Head and neck cancer is given a number from stage 1 to stage 4. The lower the number, the less the cancer has spread.
- Cancers in the oropharynx (tongue, tonsil, and throat) are staged differently, depending on whether they are linked to HPV.

### Ngā kōrero matua:

- Ka whakamārama te mahi wāhanga, i te rahi o tō matepukupuku, mehemea kua roha ki ngā tīpona waitinana, ki wāhi kē rānei o tō tinana.
- Ka hoatuna he tau ki te matepukupuku upoko me te kaki, mai i te 1 ki te 4. Ko te iti ake o te tau, ko te iti ake o te roha o te matepukupuku.
- Ka whakawāhanga rerekētia te oropharynx (te arero, te miramira, te korokoro) e ai ki tōna whai hononga ki te HPV.

# Staging head and neck cancer

Staging describes:

- the size of your cancer (T)
- if there is cancer in your lymph nodes (N)
- if the cancer has spread to other parts of your body (M).

Cancers in the oropharynx (tongue, tonsil, and throat) are staged differently, depending on whether they are linked to HPV.

Staging is based on the results of tests that you have had, such as scans, biopsies, and surgery. Your treatment team will use the T, N and M information to give the cancer a stage or number from 1 to 4. Stage 1 is the earliest stage and stage 4 is more advanced cancer. Knowing the stage will help the treatment team decide on the best treatment for you.

Your doctor or another member of your treatment team will be able to give you more information about the stage of the cancer. In general:

## Simplified staging of head and neck cancers

Stage	Size of cancer and if it has spread	Also called
Stage 1	The cancer is small and found only in one place.	Early or local cancer
Stage 2/3	The cancer has spread to other parts of your head and neck.	Locally advanced cancer
Stage 4	The cancer has spread to other parts of your body.	Advanced, secondary, or metastatic cancer