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Navigating Complex Care: Multidisciplinary Challenges of Laryngectomy Management in a Prisoner Patient

Avinash Santana

Torbay Hospital, UK

Amy Clift

Torbay Hospital, UK

Samantha Gregory

Torbay Hospital, UK

Jonathan Bradley

Torbay Hospital, UK

Isobel Rothera

Torbay Hospital, UK

Oliver McLaren

Torbay Hospital, UK

Abstract:

Managing complex cancer care in custodial settings poses significant logistical, clinical, and ethical challenges. This case outlines the journey of a prisoner who underwent a total laryngectomy for advanced laryngeal squamous cell carcinoma. The patient's care required a highly coordinated multidisciplinary approach involving ENT surgeons, speech and language therapists, head and neck clinical nurse specialists, and prison staff. From diagnosis to rehabilitation and reintegration into the prison, every stage demanded careful attention to communication, patient autonomy, and institutional security. Key challenges included delivering education to non-clinical staff, ensuring continuity of specialist support, and managing security protocols. Discharge planning extended beyond clinical stability to include environmental safety, peer training, and emergency planning. The report also explores long-term considerations such as recategorisation and early compassionate release. This case highlights the importance of collaborative, patient-centred frameworks for delivering care in complex, secure environments.

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