

6 August 2026

Head and Neck Cancer

1. Within your Trust, how many patients have been treated in the past 3 months for head and neck cancer (squamous cell carcinoma) with the following?

- **Surgery only** – 11 (Belfast Health and Social Care Trust covers ENT (not head and neck) patients who live in Belfast Trust who have oral surgery; also figure is based on Surgery as first definitive treatment only)
- **Radiotherapy only** - 94 (figures is approximate as it includes all head and neck cases and cannot be disaggregated)
- **Surgery + Radiotherapy** - 16 (Belfast Trust treats patients across all of Northern Ireland, except the Western Health and Social Care Trust. Therefore, the radiotherapy data reflects Belfast Trust activity but is drawn from a regional patient population).

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| • Carboplatin (only or in combination with 5-FU) | 5 |
| • Cisplatin (only or in combination with 5-FU) | 0 |
| • Cetuximab with/without chemotherapy | 0 |
| • Cetuximab with radiotherapy | 0 |
| • Pembrolizumab monotherapy | 27 |
| • Pembrolizumab with chemotherapy | 0 |
| • Nivolumab | 20 |
| • Docetaxel (only or in combination with 5-FU) (+Cisplatin) | <5 |
| • Fluorouracil (5FU) monotherapy | 0 |

- **Any other chemotherapy (without radiotherapy):**

EC AUC6	<5
Gemcitabine/Cisplatin	<5
Gemcitabine	<5

- **Any other chemotherapy (with radiotherapy):**

Weekly Cisplatin+XRT	16
Weekly Carboplatin +XRT	<5

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Use of <5 (less than five): We are unable to provide an exact figure - exempt from release under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act - Personal Information relating to a third party, as the small numbers involved could make patients personally identifiable.

Disclosure of this information would contravene the principles of the UK General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018.

2. How many patients who received Pembrolizumab for head and neck cancer (squamous cell carcinoma) in the last 3 months, received:

- **Treatment every 3 weeks (200mg, Q3W)** 14
- **Treatment every 6 weeks (400mg, Q6W)** <5

3. Could you please provide the number of patients treated in the past 3 months with the following agents for locally advanced head and neck cancer (squamous cell carcinoma)?

Pembrolizumab monotherapy – This treatment is available in Belfast Trust. However, information is not held in a format that would allow the number of patients treated with this agent to be identified without undertaking a manual review of individual records. To complete this would require more than 18 hours work.

Belfast Trust considers that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the 'Appropriate Limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information Act under Section 12. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified as £450 for public authorities such as Belfast Trust. This represents the cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.