

# ADJUVANT THERAPY FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF ORAL CAVITY

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While primary chemoradiotherapy can be offered to patients who are unsuitable for or refuse surgery, primary surgery, with/without adjuvant (chemo)radiotherapy, is the standard

(b) (b) The resection cutting plane with the scapula

treatment for oral cavity cancer. Adjuvant therapy is given based on pathological features of the tumour. Radiotherapy is administered typically via external beam radiotherapy. In high-risk cases, chemotherapy (usually cisplatin-based) is included as a radiosensitiser within the adjuvant regime for suitably fit patients. As outlined in previous sections, the adverse pathological features associated with locoregional recurrence and decreased overall and disease-specific survival include ENE, close/involved margins, LVI and PNI. It is these, among other, adverse features that inform the decision to administer adjuvant therapy. While there is no absolute international agreement regarding the criteria for radiotherapy, the current consensus is that one major criterion (ENE and/or involved margin [ $<1$  mm]) or two minor criteria (close margin [1–4.9 mm], multiple VI/PNI, T3/4) would indicate the need for adjuvant radiotherapy.

Figure 53.15 Series demonstrating the management of a T4 squamous cell carcinoma involving the right anterior floor of the mouth, mandible and overlying skin. Virtual surgical planning and cutting guides were used to harvest and inset the scapula free flap.

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Revision #1

Created 2025-12-31 15:20:16 UTC by Omar Ayman

Updated 2025-12-31 15:20:16 UTC by Omar Ayman