

## HEAD AND NECK SURGERY SERVICES

The Head and Neck Service at Liverpool Hospital provides comprehensive treatment for patients requiring major resections and also provides an urgent cervical lymph node biopsy service. The Service deals with patients suffering from complex Head and Neck Trauma. Liverpool undertakes one sixth of the state's inpatient activity in this field.

SWSAHS captures 78% of resident demand for public head and neck surgery. The private sector plays a significant role in head and neck surgery, meeting 42% of total demand.

During 2002/03 there were 326 episodes of care for head and neck surgery within SWSAHS. This accounted for 939 beddays. Thyroid procedures accounted for 53% of total episodes of care. The rate of increase in lymphadenectomy procedures has been 10% per annum between 2001-2003. Demand for head and neck surgery is expected to grow by 14.5% to 2006 and by a further 11.8% to 2011. Part of the growth in workload will be due to reductions in outflows, and a growth in the number of referrals from Area Health Services, which will not be developing Major Head and Neck Services in the next 10 years.

In 2006, at 85% occupancy and assuming no change in flow patterns, it is projected that there will be a need for approximately 2.8 head and neck surgery beds for adults.

### Current Service

Patients requiring major resections are treated at Liverpool because of the complex needs of these patients for team assessment, ICU care, specialist post-op nursing and nutrition, speech pathology support, specialist Head and Neck radiotherapy treatment, dental surgeons experienced in the particular problems of irradiated teeth, and a critical number of resecting and reconstructing surgeons that allows cover for leave and cross disciplinary training of registrars.

Surgery of the Parotid Glands is mainly performed at Liverpool Hospital.

Minor head and neck surgery is performed at other hospitals in SWSAHS.

In addition, the Service treats a significant number of patients from the North Coast, Western NSW, the Illawarra and the South Coast.

### Outpatients

Patients with complex Head and Neck Problems have pre-operative radiation oncology, medical oncology, reconstructive surgical, anaesthetics, speech pathology, dietetics and oncology social work assessments, usually as outpatients.

### Research and Training

The Head and Neck service collaborates with ENT and General Surgery in the training of registrars in both disciplines. Training for oral surgeons is also provided.

## CHAPTER 14

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Head and Neck Surgery be developed as an Area service with complex head and neck surgery provided at Liverpool.
- Liverpool's surgical, inpatient and rehabilitation services for head and neck surgery be enhanced with major resectional and reconstructive surgery for head and neck malignancies undertaken by multidisciplinary teams.
- Elective thyroid Surgery continue at Liverpool, Fairfield, Bankstown, Campbelltown and Bowral Hospitals.
- Established links with medical and radiation oncologists be enhanced by affiliation with Area Cancer Services.