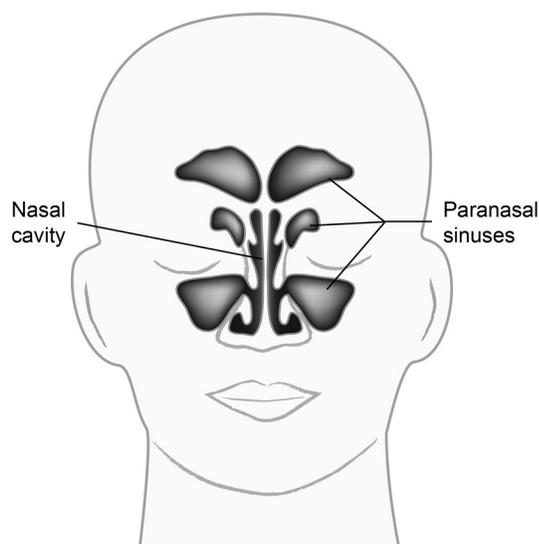


The paranasal sinuses are small hollow spaces in several places near the nose. They make mucus, which keeps the inside of your nose moist. The nasal cavity is a space behind your nose that lets air move to and from your lungs when you breathe. Cancers that happen in these areas are called **paranasal sinus and nasal cavity cancers**.



Location of paranasal sinuses and nasal cavity

Signs

Here are some signs of paranasal sinus and nasal passage cancer:

- Blocked sinuses that do not clear
- Sinus infections that happen often
- Nosebleeds that happen often
- A lump or sore inside the nose that does not heal
- Headaches or sinus pain that happen often
- Swelling or other trouble with the eyes
- Pain in the upper teeth
- Dentures that no longer fit well

Many health problems that are not cancer have these same signs. Talk to your doctor if you have any of these signs for longer than 2 weeks.

Checking for Cancer

Your doctor may take these steps to see if you have a cancer:

- Look inside your nose
- Take CT or MRI scans of your head
- Take out a small piece of tissue (called a biopsy) to test it for cancer

If there is cancer, you may have more tests called staging to find out if it has spread to other parts of your body.

Treatment

There are three main types of treatment:

- Surgery (taking out the cancer)
- Radiation therapy (using x-rays or other high-energy rays to kill cancer cells)
- Chemotherapy (using drugs to kill cancer cells)

Surgery. The surgeon may need to take out nearby bone or tissue along with the cancer. This depends on where the cancer is and if it has spread. If cancer has spread to lymph nodes in the neck, the doctor may need to remove some of them. The *About Lymph Node Surgery* factsheet has more information about this.

Radiation therapy. Doctors use radiation from a machine or from small amounts of radioactive material placed near the cancer to kill cancer cells. The *Radiation Therapy to the Head and Neck* factsheet has more information about this.

Chemotherapy. Patients who get chemotherapy may take it as a pill or through a needle in a vein. Chemotherapy goes everywhere in the body to kill cancer cells.

You and your care team will plan the best treatment for you, based on where the cancer is, the stage, your age, and your overall health.

For more information about cancer and its treatment

Call our Cancer Learning Center at 1-888-424-2100
or visit www.huntsmancancer.org.