Stanford



Hyunseok Kang

Professor of Medicine (Oncology)

Medicine - Oncology

CLINICAL OFFICE (PRIMARY)

- **Stanford Head and Neck**

  875 Blake Wilbur Dr

  Palo Alto, CA 94304

  Tel (650) 498-6000 **Fax** (650) 724-1445

Bio

BIO

Hyunseok “Hyu” Kang, MD, MPH is a medical oncologist specializing in head and neck cancers, including squamous cell carcinoma, salivary gland cancers, thyroid cancers, and other rare tumors. He serves as Leader of the Head and Neck Cancer Research Program at the Stanford Cancer Institute and Leader of Head and Neck Medical Oncology. His research focuses on developing clinical trials with novel therapies, including immunotherapy, targeted agents, and antibody-drug conjugates, to improve outcomes for patients with rare and aggressive head and neck cancers.

CLINICAL FOCUS

- Medical Oncology
- Head and Neck Cancer
- Salivary Gland Cancer
- Thyroid Cancers

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Professor-Univ Med Line, Medicine - Oncology
- Member, Bio-X
- Member, Stanford Cancer Institute

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Leader, Head and Neck Medical Oncology, Stanford University, (2025- present)
- Leader, Head and Neck Cancer Clinical Research Group, Stanford Cancer Institute, (2025- present)

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Member, Protocol Committee/Corporate Liasion Committee, International Thyroid Oncology Group (2023 - present)
- Member, Program Committee for Annual Meeting, American Society of Clinical Oncology (2025 - present)
- Member, Award Review Committee, Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (2023 - present)
- Member, Clinical Affairs Committee, American Thyroid Association (2023 - present)

- Member, Editorial Board, Korean Journal of Head and Neck Oncology (2020 - present)
- Associate Editor, NEJM Clinician Journal Watch (2023 - present)
- Associate Editor, Cancer Medicine (2023 - present)
- Associate Editor, Head and Neck (2023 - present)
- Fellow, American College of Physicians (2015 - present)
- Member, American Society of Clinical Oncology (2010 - present)
- Member, American Association for Cancer Research (2012 - present)
- Member, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (2013 - present)
- Member, Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (2015 - present)
- Member, NRG Oncology (2018 - present)
- Member, American Thyroid Association (2019 - present)
- Member, International Thyroid Oncology Group (2020 - present)
- Member, American Head and Neck Society (2023 - present)

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Board Certification: Internal Medicine, American Board of Internal Medicine (2023)
- Board Certification: Medical Oncology, American Board of Internal Medicine (2013)
- Fellowship: Emory University Hematology and Medical Oncology Fellowship (2013) GA
- Residency: St Luke's Roosevelt Hospital Internal Medicine Residency (2010) NY
- Medical Education: Yonsei University College Of Medicine (2002) South Korea
- MPH, Yonsei University Graduate School of Public Health , Epidemiology & Statistics (2007)

Research & Scholarship

CURRENT RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

A primary focus of my research has been addressing unmet medical needs in rare malignancies, particularly salivary gland cancers. My research has also explored androgen deprivation and HER2-targeting therapies, expanding therapeutic options and clinical understanding in these challenging malignancies. I served as the Global Principal Investigator of a pivotal phase II study evaluating rivoceranib in recurrent or metastatic adenoid cystic carcinoma, resulting in critical findings published in Clinical Cancer Research. I have also served as a key investigator for other clinical trials in adenoid cystic carcinoma using various agents such as a PRMT5 inhibitor, a gamma secretase inhibitor, and a Myb mRNA degrader. I am involved in early drug development efforts with a targeted protein degrader and antibody drug conjugates for adenoid cystic carcinoma at this time, and interested in novel target discovery and preclinical model development.

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **PDS0101 With Pembrolizumab in HPV16-Positive Recurrent/Metastatic Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma: A Phase 2 Nonrandomized Clinical Trial.** *JAMA oncology*
  Weiss, J., Kaczmar, J., Chintakuntlawar, A., Worden, F. P., Mehra, R., Kang, H., Zinner, R. G., Arnold, S. M., Bhateja, P., Harrington, K., Gupta, S., Zhao, Y., Pham, et al
  2026
- **Statin Use Is Associated With Progression-Free Survival for Recurrent/Metastatic Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma Treated With Pembrolizumab.** *Head & neck*

Truong, A. A., Ho, S., Lee, R. H., Wu, X., Kang, H., El-Sayed, I. H., George, J. R., Heaton, C. M., Likhterov, I., Xu, M. J., Ha, P. K., Algazi, A. P., Wai, et al
2026

- **A Selective CK1α Degrader Targets Acute Myeloid Leukemia and Spares Normal Hematopoietic Cells.** *Cancer research*
  Kim, B. R., Kim, H., Choi, H., Kwag, D., Kim, Y. J., Son, H., Park, S., Park, J., Kim, H., Choi, W., Lee, S., Kim, H. J., Kang, et al
  2026
- **A phase II basket trial of DART SWOG S1609: the salivary gland tumor cohort.** *Therapeutic advances in medical oncology*
  Chae, Y. K., Sun, R., Patel, S. P., Giles, F., Ohr, J. P., Worden, F. P., Suga, J. M., Naing, A., Cohen, E. E., Wallace, J., Kang, H. S., Fenton, S., Chung, et al
  2026; 18: 17588359261451739
- **Prognostic significance of undetectable baseline HPV circulating tumor DNA in oropharyngeal cancer**
  Fortino, J., Sunder, A., Lee, R., Qian, A., Algazi, A., Kang, H., Chow, M., Xu, M., Wai, K., Ryan, W., Ha, P., Yom, S. S., Chan, et al
  LIPPINCOTT WILLIAMS & WILKINS.2026
- **Metastatic Lymph Node Status Is Associated With Progression-Free Survival in Oral Cavity Squamous Cell Carcinoma Treated With Pembrolizumab.** *Head & neck*
  Truong, A. A., Ho, S., Apostolova, M. K., Lee, R. H., Wu, X., Kang, H., El-Sayed, I. H., George, J. R., Heaton, C. M., Likhterov, I., Xu, M. J., Spitzer, M. H., Ha, et al
  2026
- **First-in-human phase 1 dose escalation and expansion study of PIN-5018, a CK1α-selective molecular glue degrader, in patients with advanced solid tumors.**
  Keam, B., Lee, J., Lee, K., Kim, C., Lim, H., Jo, H., Kang, H.
  LIPPINCOTT WILLIAMS & WILKINS.2026: TPS3168
- **Potent Anti-Tumor Activity of the AXL-Targeted Antibody-Drug Conjugate, Mipasetamab Uzoptirine (ADCT-601), in Preclinical Models of Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma.** *Molecular cancer therapeutics*
  Humtsoe, J. O., Jones, L., Pothukuchi, A., Chen, K., Na'ara, S., Kang, H., Ha, P. K.
  2026: OF1-OF9
- **Neutrophil-To-Lymphocyte Ratio and Survival in Pembrolizumab-Treated Oropharyngeal Cancer** *HEAD AND NECK-JOURNAL FOR THE SCIENCES AND SPECIALTIES OF THE HEAD AND NECK*
  Truong, A. A., Ho, S., Lee, R. H., Wu, X., Kang, H., El-Sayed, I. H., George, J. R., Heaton, C. M., Likhterov, I., Xu, M., Ha, P. K., Algazi, A. P., Wai, et al
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- **Potent anti-tumor activity of the AXL-targeted antibody-drug conjugate, mipasetamab uzoptirine (ADCT-601), in preclinical models of adenoid cystic carcinoma.** *Molecular cancer therapeutics*
  Humtsoe, J. O., Jones, L., Pothukuchi, A., Chen, K., Na'ara, S., Kang, H., Ha, P. K.
  2026
- **Longitudinal and spatial heterogeneity of intra-tumoral TCR repertoires during immunotherapy in metastatic cancers**
  Zoitou, A., Velculescu, S., Pereira, G., Balan, A., Najjar, M., Jamali, A., White, J. R., Karchin, R., Niknafs, N., Kang, H., Forde, P. M., Hann, C. L., Hooper, et al
  AMER ASSOC CANCER RESEARCH.2026
- **Pituitary metastasis as the first sign of distant spread in mandibular squamous cell carcinoma** *JOURNAL OF SURGICAL CASE REPORTS*
  Truong, A. A., Chan, J., Kang, H., Chen, J., Aghi, M., Loftus, P., Xu, M., Wai, K. C.
  2026; 2026 (4): rjag315
- **Timely Matters: Predictors of Delay in Oral Cavity Cancer Patients Across the Care Continuum.** *Laryngoscope investigative otolaryngology*
  Correia, N., Johnson, K., Durr, M., Grimes, B. A., Lazar, A. A., Sarkar, U., Ha, P. K., Chen, L., Wai, K. C., Likhterov, I., Yom, S. S., Chan, J. W., Algazi, et al
  2026; 11 (2): e70363
- **Perineural Invasion and Survival in Pembrolizumab-Treated Head and Neck SquamousCell Carcinoma.** *The Laryngoscope*
  Truong, A. A., Ho, S., Lee, R. H., Wu, X., Kang, H., El-Sayed, I. H., George, J. R., Heaton, C. M., Likhterov, I., Xu, M. J., Ha, P. K., Algazi, A. P., Wai, et al

2026

- **Executive Summary of the 2025 American Thyroid Association Management Guidelines for Adult Patients with Differentiated Thyroid Cancer.** *Thyroid : official journal of the American Thyroid Association*
  Praw, S. S., Gigliotti, B. J., Tessnow, A., Kang, H., Margulies, D. J.
  2025
- **A Patient With Prior Skin Cancers and New Diagnosis of Bell Palsy.** *JAMA oncology*
  Rahmani, R., Kang, H., Chan, J. W.
  2025
- **Redifferentiation therapy in unresectable or metastatic radioactive iodine refractory thyroid cancer: an International Thyroid Oncology Group statement.** *The lancet. Diabetes & endocrinology*
  Leboulleux, S., Boucai, L., Busaidy, N., Durante, C., Fagin, J. A., Fazeli, S., Gianoukakis, A. G., Haugen, B. R., Kang, H., Konda, B., Laetsch, T. W., Locati, L., Ryder, et al
  2025; 13 (6): 516-527
- **A pilot study of PSMA-targeted F-18-DCFPyL PET imaging of patients with adenoid cystic carcinoma.** *Scientific reports*
  Voter, A. F., Amindarolzarbi, A., Shen, C. J., Wang, J., Kang, H., Sharma, R., Solnes, L. B., Pomper, M. G., Bishop, J. A., Rowe, S. P., Kiess, A. P.
  2025; 15 (1): 17104
- **Neutrophil-to-Lymphocyte Ratio and Pembrolizumab Outcomes in Oral Cavity Squamous Cell Carcinoma.** *Otolaryngology--head and neck surgery : official journal of American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery*
  Truong, A. A., Lee, R. H., Wu, X., Algazi, A. P., Kang, H., El-Sayed, I. H., George, J. R., Heaton, C. M., Ryan, W. R., Jeon, Y., Kim, M. O., Ha, P. K., Wai, et al
  2025; 172 (2): 548-555
- **CYLD Alterations Are Associated With Metastasis and Poor Prognosis in Human Papilloma Virus-Positive Head and Neck Cancer.** *Head & neck*
  Cui, Z., Kang, H., Li, H., Lee, E. D., Lee, Y. S., Peterson, C. N., Long, S. R., Grandis, J. R., Johnson, D. E.
  2025; 47 (2): 606-614
- **Immune-related encephalitis after immune checkpoint inhibitor therapy.** *The oncologist*
  Buckley, M. W., Balaji Warner, A., Brahmer, J., Cappelli, L. C., Sharfman, W. H., Fuchs, E., Kang, H., Forde, P. M., Gladstone, D. E., Ambinder, R., Kelly, R. J., Lipson, E. J., Gojo, et al
  2025; 30 (1)
- **Withdrawal pain following patients discontinuing Trk inhibitors.** *Journal of oncology pharmacy practice : official publication of the International Society of Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners*
  Chin, A., Lindsay, S., Bergsland, E. K., Kang, H.
  2025; 31 (1): 147-150
- **Comparative Uptake Patterns of Radioactive Iodine and [18F]-Fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG) in Metastatic Differentiated Thyroid Cancers.** *Journal of clinical medicine*
  Diwanji, D., Carrodeguas, E., Seo, Y., Kang, H., Soe, M. H., Chiang, J. M., Zhang, L., Liu, C., Behr, S. C., Flavell, R. R.
  2024; 13 (13)
- **Patient-reported outcomes with selpercatinib treatment in patients with RET-driven cancers in the phase I/II LIBRETTO-001 trial.** *ESMO open*
  Raez, L. E., Kang, H., Ohe, Y., Khanal, M., Han, Y., Szymczak, S., Barker, S. S., Gilligan, A. M.
  2024; 9 (5): 103444
- **Treatment Modality Impact on Patient-Reported Quality of Life in Human Papilloma Virus-Associated Oropharyngeal Carcinoma.** *The Laryngoscope*
  Plonowska-Hirschfeld, K. A., Gulati, A., Stephens, E. M., Ochoa, E., Xu, M. J., Ha, P. K., Heaton, C. M., Yom, S. S., Chan, J. W., Algazi, A., Kang, H., Ryan, W. R.
  2024; 134 (4): 1687-1695
- **PRT543, a protein arginine methyltransferase 5 inhibitor, in patients with advanced adenoid cystic carcinoma: An open-label, phase I dose-expansion study.** *Oral oncology*
  Ferrarotto, R., Swiecicki, P. L., Zandberg, D. P., Baiocchi, R. A., Wesolowski, R., Rodriguez, C. P., McKean, M., Kang, H., Monga, V., Nath, R., Palmisiano, N., Babbar, N., Sun, et al

2024; 149: 106634

- **Carboplatin and paclitaxel after anti-PD-1 or anti-PD-L1 antibody therapy in recurrent and/or metastatic squamous cell carcinoma of head and neck** *HEAD AND NECK-JOURNAL FOR THE SCIENCES AND SPECIALTIES OF THE HEAD AND NECK*
  Humphries, A., Zhou, C. J., Welsh, M., Lem, M., Kang, H., Algazi, A. P.
  2024; 46 (2): 321-327

- **A Phase II Trial of Rivoceranib, an Oral Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor Receptor 2 Inhibitor, for Recurrent or Metastatic Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma.** *Clinical cancer research : an official journal of the American Association for Cancer Research*
  Hanna, G. J., Ahn, M. J., Muzaffar, J., Keam, B., Bowles, D. W., Wong, D. J., Ho, A. L., Kim, S. B., Worden, F., Yun, T., Meng, X., Van Tornout, J. M., Conlan, et al
  2023; 29 (22): 4555-4563

- **The neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio in salivary gland cancers treated with pembrolizumab** *HEAD AND NECK-JOURNAL FOR THE SCIENCES AND SPECIALTIES OF THE HEAD AND NECK*
  Lee, R. H., Truong, A., Wu, X., Kang, H., Algazi, A. P., El-Sayed, I. H., George, J. R., Heaton, C. M., Ryan, W. R., Ha, P. K., Wai, K. C.
  2024; 46 (1): 129-137

- **A prospective evaluation of neck and shoulder function following treatments of early-stage human papillomavirus-associated oropharynx cancer.** *Clinical otolaryngology : official journal of ENT-UK ; official journal of Netherlands Society for Oto-Rhino-Laryngology & Cervico-Facial Surgery*
  Gulati, A., Plonowska-Hirschfeld, K., Stephens, E. M., Kansara, S., Zebolsky, A. L., Ochoa, E., Xu, M. J., Ha, P. K., Heaton, C. M., Yom, S. S., Chan, J. W., Algazi, A. P., Kang, et al
  2023; 48 (5): 756-765

- **Biomarkers predictive of response to pembrolizumab in head and neck cancer.** *Cancer medicine*
  Pfister, D. G., Haddad, R. I., Worden, F. P., Weiss, J., Mehra, R., Chow, L. Q., Liu, S. V., Kang, H., Saba, N. F., Wirth, L. J., Sukari, A., Massarelli, E., Ayers, et al
  2023; 12 (6): 6603-6614

- **Phase II Study of Enzalutamide for Patients With Androgen Receptor-Positive Salivary Gland Cancers (Alliance A091404).** *Journal of clinical oncology : official journal of the American Society of Clinical Oncology*
  Ho, A. L., Foster, N. R., Zoroufy, A. J., Campbell, J. D., Worden, F., Price, K., Adkins, D., Bowles, D. W., Kang, H., Burtness, B., Sherman, E., Morton, R., Morris, et al
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- **Approaches to the Management of Metastatic Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma.** *Cancers*
  Lee, R. H., Wai, K. C., Chan, J. W., Ha, P. K., Kang, H.
  2022; 14 (22)

- **Tumour-agnostic efficacy and safety of selpercatinib in patients with RET fusion-positive solid tumours other than lung or thyroid tumours (LIBRETTO-001): a phase 1/2, open-label, basket trial.** *The Lancet. Oncology*
  Subbiah, V., Wolf, J., Konda, B., Kang, H., Spira, A., Weiss, J., Takeda, M., Ohe, Y., Khan, S., Ohashi, K., Soldatenkova, V., Szymczak, S., Sullivan, et al
  2022; 23 (10): 1261-1273

- **Clinical Trial Development in TP53-Mutated Locally Advanced and Recurrent/Metastatic Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma.** *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*
  Rodriguez, C. P., Kang, H., Geiger, J. L., Burtness, B., Chung, C. H., Pickering, C. R., Fakhry, C., Le, Q. T., Yom, S. S., Galloway, T. J., Golemis, E., Li, A., Shoop, et al
  2022

- **Non-Iodine-Avid Disease Is Highly Prevalent in Distant Metastatic Differentiated Thyroid Cancer With Papillary Histology.** *The Journal of clinical endocrinology and metabolism*
  Soe, M. H., Chiang, J. M., Flavell, R. R., Khanafshar, E., Mendoza, L., Kang, H., Liu, C.
  2022; 107 (8): e3206-e3216

- **Real-World Experience of NTRK Fusion-Positive Thyroid Cancer.** *JCO precision oncology*
  Park, J. C., Ashok, A., Liu, C., Kang, H.
  2022; 6: e2100442

- **Influence of tumor mutational burden, inflammatory gene expression profile, and PD-L1 expression on response to pembrolizumab in head and neck squamous cell carcinoma.** *Journal for immunotherapy of cancer*
  Haddad, R. I., Seiwert, T. Y., Chow, L. Q., Gupta, S., Weiss, J., Gluck, I., Eder, J. P., Burtness, B., Tahara, M., Keam, B., Kang, H., Muro, K., Albright, et al
  2022; 10 (2)
- **Therapeutic implications of activating noncanonical PIK3CA mutations in head and neck squamous cell carcinoma.** *The Journal of clinical investigation*
  Jin, N., Keam, B., Cho, J., Lee, M. J., Kim, H. R., Torosyan, H., Jura, N., Ng, P. K., Mills, G. B., Li, H., Zeng, Y., Barbash, Z., Tarcic, et al
  2021; 131 (22)
- **Effect of chemotherapy and radiotherapy on cognitive impairment in colorectal cancer: evidence from Korean National Health Insurance Database Cohort.** *Epidemiology and health*
  Kim, K., Kim, C. W., Shin, A., Kang, H., Jung, S. J.
  2021; 43: e2021093
- **Treatment of Fanconi Anemia-Associated Head and Neck Cancer: Opportunities to Improve Outcomes.** *Clinical cancer research : an official journal of the American Association for Cancer Research*
  Lee, R. H., Kang, H., Yom, S. S., Smogorzewska, A., Johnson, D. E., Grandis, J. R.
  2021; 27 (19): 5168-5187
- **Ovarian Failure Preceding Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma Identifies an Adult-Onset Cancer-Prone Syndrome Caused by FANCM Mutations.** *JCO precision oncology*
  Vellanki, P. J., DeBoy, E. A., Bawadkji, M. M., Schuchter, L., Rooper, L., Mehra, R., Kang, H., Armanios, M.
  2021; 5
- **Molecular Markers that Matter in Salivary Malignancy.** *Otolaryngologic clinics of North America*
  Wai, K. C., Kang, H., Ha, P. K.
  2021; 54 (3): 613-627
- **Newly Identified Members of FGFR1 Splice Variants Engage in Cross-talk with AXL/AKT Axis in Salivary Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma.** *Cancer research*
  Humtsoe, J. O., Kim, H. S., Leonard, B., Ling, S., Keam, B., Marchionni, L., Afsari, B., Considine, M., Favorov, A. V., Fertig, E. J., Kang, H., Ha, P. K.
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- **CYLD Alterations in the Tumorigenesis and Progression of Human Papillomavirus-Associated Head and Neck Cancers.** *Molecular cancer research : MCR*
  Cui, Z., Kang, H., Grandis, J. R., Johnson, D. E.
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- **The efficacy of anti-PD-1 immune checkpoint inhibitor in nasopharyngeal carcinoma.** *Oral oncology*
  Park, J. C., Durbeck, J., Boudadi, K., Ho, W. J., Kang, H.
  2020; 108: 104935
- **Squamous cell carcinoma of head and neck: what internists should know.** *The Korean journal of internal medicine*
  Jung, K., Narwal, M., Min, S. Y., Keam, B., Kang, H.
  2020; 35 (5): 1031-1044
- **Efficacy of Selpercatinib in RET-Altered Thyroid Cancers.** *The New England journal of medicine*
  Wirth, L. J., Sherman, E., Robinson, B., Solomon, B., Kang, H., Lorch, J., Worden, F., Brose, M., Patel, J., Leboulleux, S., Godbert, Y., Barlesi, F., Morris, et al
  2020; 383 (9): 825-835
- **Immune checkpoint inhibitor in nasopharyngeal carcinoma: Multi-institution experience.**
  Park, J., Wirth, L. J., Clark, J. R., Durbeck, J., Ho, W., Boudadi, K., Kang, H.
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- **Targeted therapy for advanced salivary gland carcinoma based on molecular profiling: results from MyPathway, a phase IIa multiple basket study.** *Annals of oncology : official journal of the European Society for Medical Oncology*
  Kurzrock, R., Bowles, D. W., Kang, H., Meric-Bernstam, F., Hainsworth, J., Spigel, D. R., Bose, R., Burris, H., Sweeney, C. J., Beattie, M. S., Blotner, S., Schulze, K., Cuchelkar, et al

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  Rooper, L. M., London, N. R., Taube, J. M., Westra, W. H., Bishop, J. A., Kang, H.
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- **Genomic Profiling of Parathyroid Carcinoma Reveals Genomic Alterations Suggesting Benefit from Therapy.** *The oncologist*
  Kang, H., Pettinga, D., Schubert, A. D., Ladenson, P. W., Ball, D. W., Chung, J. H., Schrock, A. B., Madison, R., Frampton, G. M., Stephens, P. J., Ross, J. S., Miller, V. A., Ali, et al
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- **More on Mu-Opioid Receptor Antagonists in PD-1 Blockade-Induced Pruritus REPLY** *NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE*
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- **More on Mu-Opioid Receptor Antagonists in PD-1 Blockade-Induced Pruritus.** *The New England journal of medicine*
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  Kwatra, S. G., Ständer, S., Kang, H.
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- **Quality indicators of oropharyngeal cancer care in the elderly.** *The Laryngoscope*
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  Kang, H., Antonarakis, E. S., Luo, J., Zheng, Q., Rooper, L., De Marzo, A. M., Westra, W. H., Lotan, T. L.
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- **Association between pretreatment lymphocyte count and response to PD1 inhibitors in head and neck squamous cell carcinomas.** *Journal for immunotherapy of cancer*
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