Head and Neck Lymphedema

More than one-third of the body's lymph nodes are contained in the head and neck. Surgery and radiation disrupt lymphatic function by removing lymph nodes, cutting lymph vessels and scarring lymphatic capillaries. Over 90% of head and neck cancer survivors develop lymphedema.¹

Impaired lymphatic drainage leads to swelling, inflammation and fibrosis of internal and external structures and surrounding tissue. These changes can impair swallowing, breathing, speaking and range of motion.



Lymph nodes and lymphatics in capillary beds.



Lymph node with one way valves.





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¹Ridner, S.H., et al., A prospective Study of the Lymphedema and Fibrosis Continuum in Patients with Head and Neck Cancer. *Lymphat Res Biol*, 2016. 14(4): p. 198-205 **Tactile Medical** Toll Free: 833.382.2845 (833.3TACTILE) Toll Free Fax 866.435.3949 tactilemedical.com

