

# Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma

## Definition:

This is a cancer arising in the back of the nose. The tumour is occasionally seen in adolescents and is treated differently to its adult counterpart.

## Etiology

The tumour is rare in white people. It is more commonly seen in Chinese and Southern Asians. It is associated with Epstein-Barr virus.

## Staging

The adult TNM system is used (size of tumour, nodal status and presence of metastases).

## Diagnostic Evaluation

MRI of primary site + chest x-ray

## Treatment

The tumour responds well to chemotherapy, and in children, the initial treatment is combination chemotherapy followed by radiation therapy. Agents used are cisplatin and 5-fluorouracil.

## Prognosis

The prognosis with adjuvant chemotherapy has improved significantly. 75% of patients are cured.