

# LET'S TALK ABOUT Cancer in Fanconi Anemia

## WHAT DOES FA HAVE TO DO WITH CANCER?

Due to the underlying DNA repair issue in people with FA, they are at a higher risk to develop squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) in the head & neck and anogenital regions (vulva, vagina, cervix, anus). SCC can also arise in other areas of the body. Risk increases with age.

## WHAT ARE THE CURRENT TREATMENT OPTIONS?

Traditional therapies such as chemotherapy are toxic for people with FA, making surgery the most viable treatment option. For surgery to be a success, it is crucial to find and remove cancers before they spread. That is why prevention & early detection are key.

## IMPORTANT TO KNOW

Not everyone with FA develops squamous cell carcinoma. Long-term survival after SCC in FA is feasible if it is detected early enough. In the mouth, most lesions are non-malignant. Survival correlates with stage (size of the tumor and spreading).

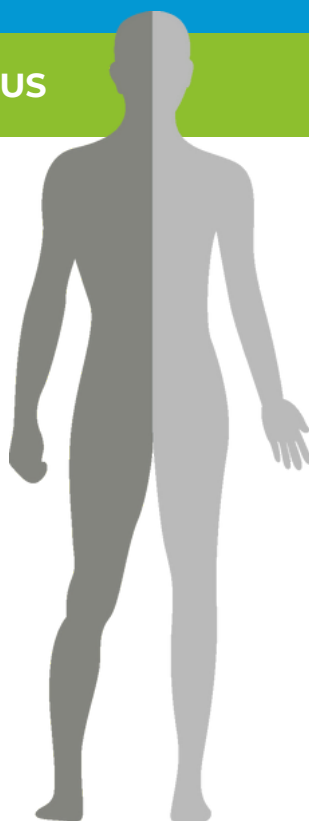
### HEAD & NECK, MOUTH, ESOPHAGUS

#### Add to your healthcare routine:

- See your dentist at least twice a year
- See your ENT doctor at least twice a year starting at age 10. Inspection of the throat should start at age 16.
- Perform monthly self-inspection and documentation, looking for any abnormal spots or changes
- Participate in oral screenings offered free at all FARF meetings (in-home visits also offered)

#### It's time to see a specialist:

- If a spot isn't healing over time (3-4 weeks)
- The color of a spot changes
- If the spot starts to bleed
- If you start to develop even slight problems with swallowing or speaking



### VULVA, VAGINA, CERVIX, ANUS

#### Add to your healthcare routine (females):

- Begin visual exams of external genitalia at age 13 with a gynecologist
- Perform self-inspections with a mirror
- Start comprehensive exams, including pap smear, at age 18, every 6-12 months
- Colposcopy of the vulva, vagina, or cervix should be performed when any abnormal spots are seen on visual inspection or if a cervical cytology test is abnormal

#### It's time to see a specialist:

- When you notice the development or change in any spots

*Though these recommendations are specific to females, it is important to note that anal cancer may develop in males as well. Screening recommendations have yet to be determined.*

## 4 PROACTIVE STEPS AGAINST CANCER



### INFORMATION

Keep yourself informed. Updates are provided at in-person meetings, on FARF's website and in newsletters.



### DOCUMENTATION

Perform self-inspections of the mouth and take photos of any spots. Mark spots on an "oral cavity map" (printable available at [fanconi.org](http://fanconi.org)), describe details and note the date.



### THE DO'S

In addition to regular screenings, maintain good oral hygiene and a healthy lifestyle, including diet and exercise. It's key to give attention to mental health, too.



### THE DON'TS

People with FA should avoid consuming alcohol and partaking in smoking, both of which cause extra damage to DNA.