

#### 4.1 Cancer of the Oral Cavity (including lip)

**Definition:**

The oral cavity is defined as extending from the skin-vermilion junction anteriorly to the junction of the hard and soft palate postero-superiorly and the line of the circumvallate papillae below. It is further subdivided into:

- Anterior 2/3 of tongue
- Floor of mouth
- Buccal mucosa
- Hard palate
- Retromolar trigone (retromolar gingiva)
- Mucosal lip
- Lower alveolar ridge
- Upper alveolar ridge

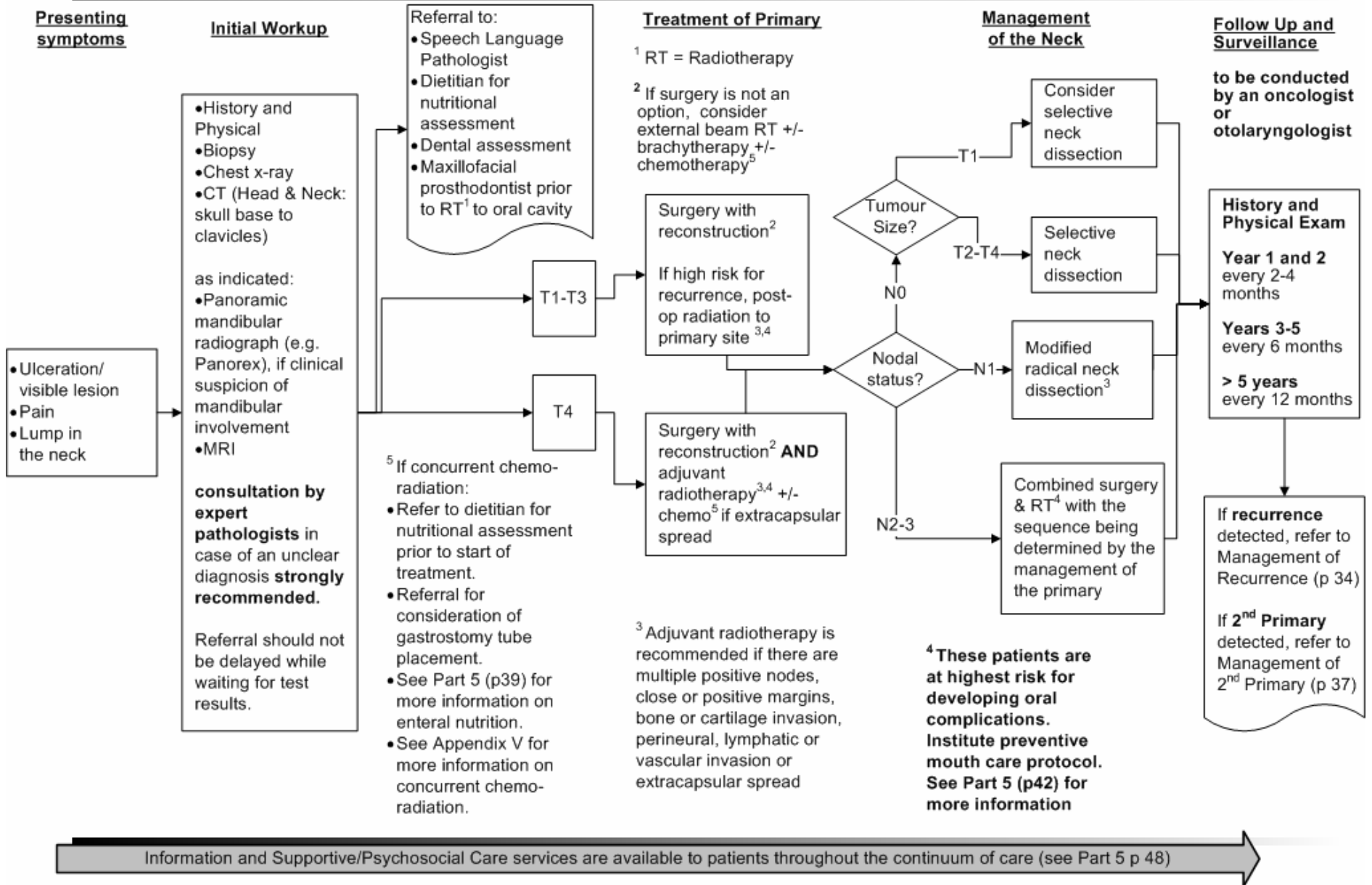
Regional node involvement is evident in about 30% of cases with risk varying according to subsite (for example rare with alveolar ridge or hard palate but 50 – 60% for anterior tongue).

**Metastatic Sites.** The lungs are the commonest site of distant metastases; skeletal and hepatic metastases occur less often. Mediastinal lymph node metastases are considered distant metastases.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> American Joint Committee on Cancer. Cancer Staging Manual, Sixth Edition New York: Springer-Verlag New York. 2002

# Practice Pathway for the Management of Cancer of the Oral Cavity



# Practice Pathway for the Management of Lip Cancer

