



POLK COUNTY DENTAL ASSOCIATION

AN AFFILIATE OF THE WEST COAST DISTRICT,
AMERICAN & FLORIDA DENTAL ASSOCIATIONS

Polk County Dental Association

Melanie Townsend, MD
Tuesday, August 19, 2025

“Evolving Management of Mandibular Osteoradionecrosis in the Era of Improved Head and Neck Cancer Survival”

Patients with head and neck cancer are seeing increased cure rates and length of survival, particularly in the setting of HPV-mediated disease. Prolonged survival increases the potential for long term treatment side effects to occur. This lecture is a review of the historical management of osteoradionecrosis of the mandible and an update on more contemporary management techniques and outcomes. These techniques aim to address affected bone at an earlier stage and options seeking to avoid complete mandible reconstruction.

It includes both surgical and non-surgical recommendations with case examples of surgical outcomes.

Melanie Townsend is a board-certified otolaryngologist with a practice focus in head and neck surgical oncology. Her residency training was at Washington University in St. Louis and head and neck surgery fellowship was at the University of Miami. She moved to Orlando with Advent Health Celebration after working at the University of Louisville in Kentucky. Her areas of interest include head and neck cancer resection and reconstruction as well as endocrine surgery and management of osteoradionecrosis of the mandible. She also has an interest in clinical trial design and process improvement within head and neck cancer care.



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The meeting will be held at Grasslands Golf Grasslands Blvd., Lakeland. Dinner will be served @ 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will start @ 7 p.m. Please RSVP to Tisha Talbot via email pcdaemail@gmail.com