

Return to Work After Trans- Oral Robotic Surgery (TORS) For Oropharyngeal Cancer

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Introduction

- The incidence of human papillomavirus (HPV) related oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma (OPSCC) have risen markedly in the past few decades ⁽¹⁾
- In contrast to patients with traditional smoking- and alcohol- related OPSCC, patients with HPV related OPSCC are usually younger and of working age ⁽²⁾
- Open surgery and chemoradiotherapy (CRT) were the primary treatment for OPSCC before the minimally- invasive TORS was introduced ⁽³⁾
- The difference in functional outcomes for patients treated with TORS versus RT and CRT have been controversial ^(4,5)
- Recent study showed an average RTW time of 6 months in patients treated with primary CRT ⁽⁶⁾

Aims

This study aims to evaluate the RTW time in patients with oropharyngeal cancer post- TORS and to compare our results to the current literature

Methodology

- This is a retrospective cross- sectional study involving participants recruited from Epworth Richmond and the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre (PMCC)
- They are patients who had primary OPSCC treated with TORS as the primary treatment modality
- Data including demographics, employment status, clinical factors were collected
- EORTC QLQ-C30, EORTC QLQ-H&N43 and hospital and anxiety scale (HADS) were questionnaires completed by participants to assess their quality of life

Conclusions

There is a high rate (96%) of RTW and good QOL after TORS. This information may be useful for patients when deciding on treatment options.

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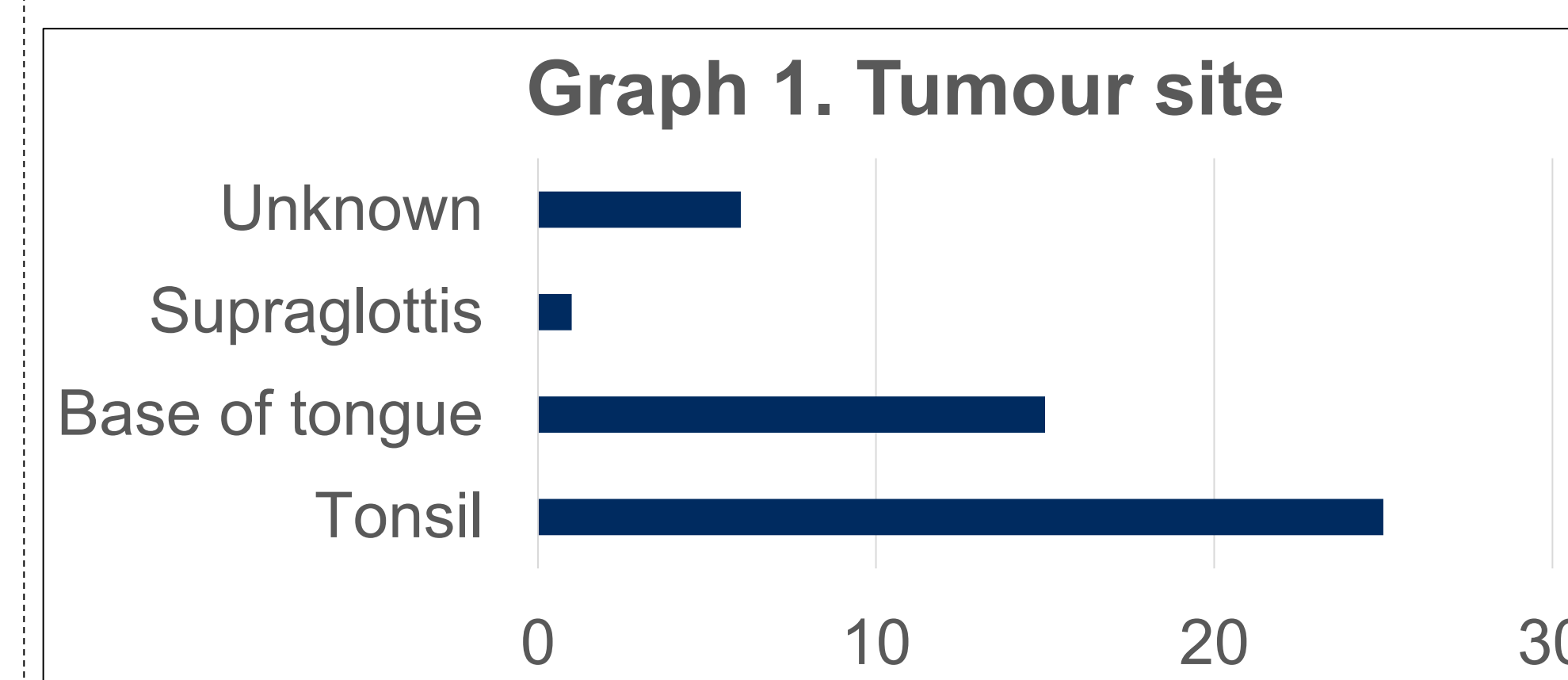
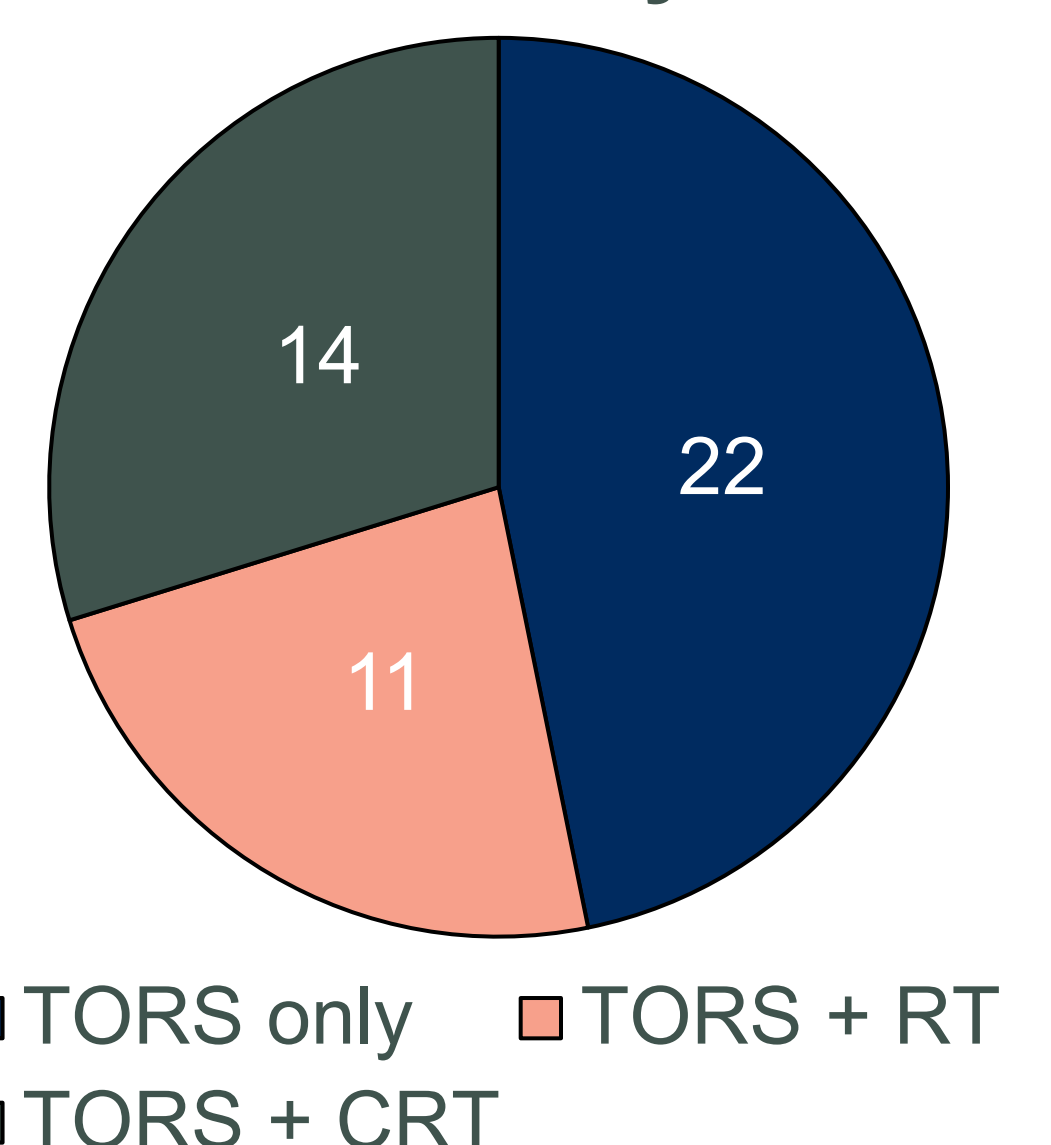
Results

Demographics & clinical factors

Table 1. Demographics of patients (n=47) [26 (Epworth) + 21 (PMCC)]

Age (Median; Range)	56 (39-64)
Gender (M:F)	38:9
Charlson Comorbidity Index =1	37 (79%)
Non- smoker	21 (45%)
Non- drinker	16 (34%)
P16 positive status	45 (96%)
Stage I cancer	44 (94%)
Average years since surgery	3.45

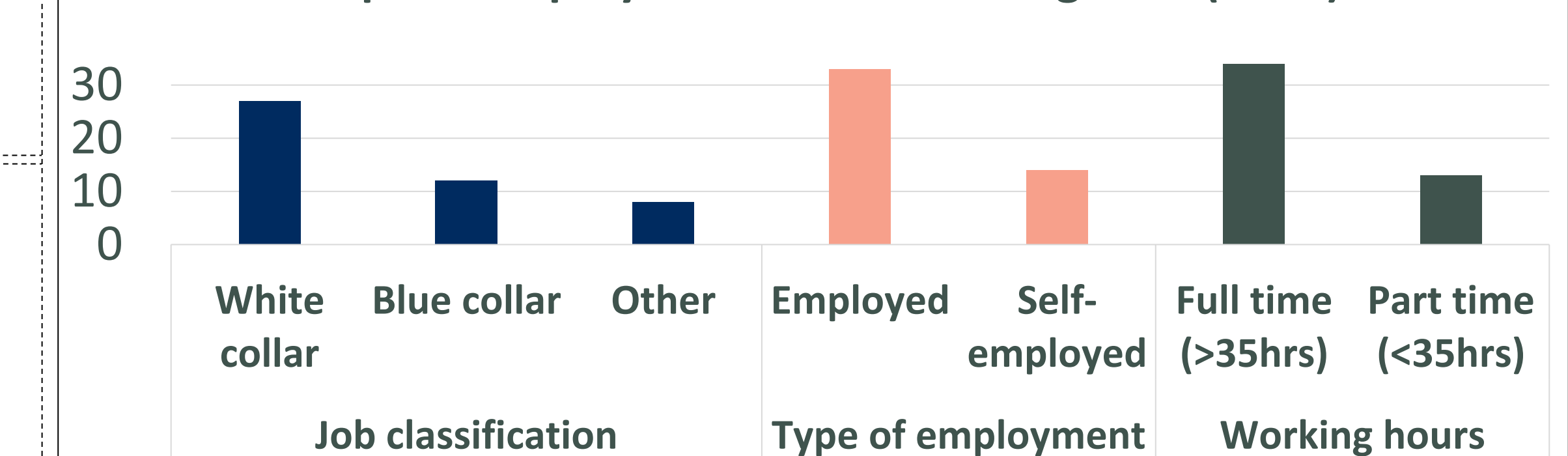
Graph 2. Treatment modality



Financial & Employment status

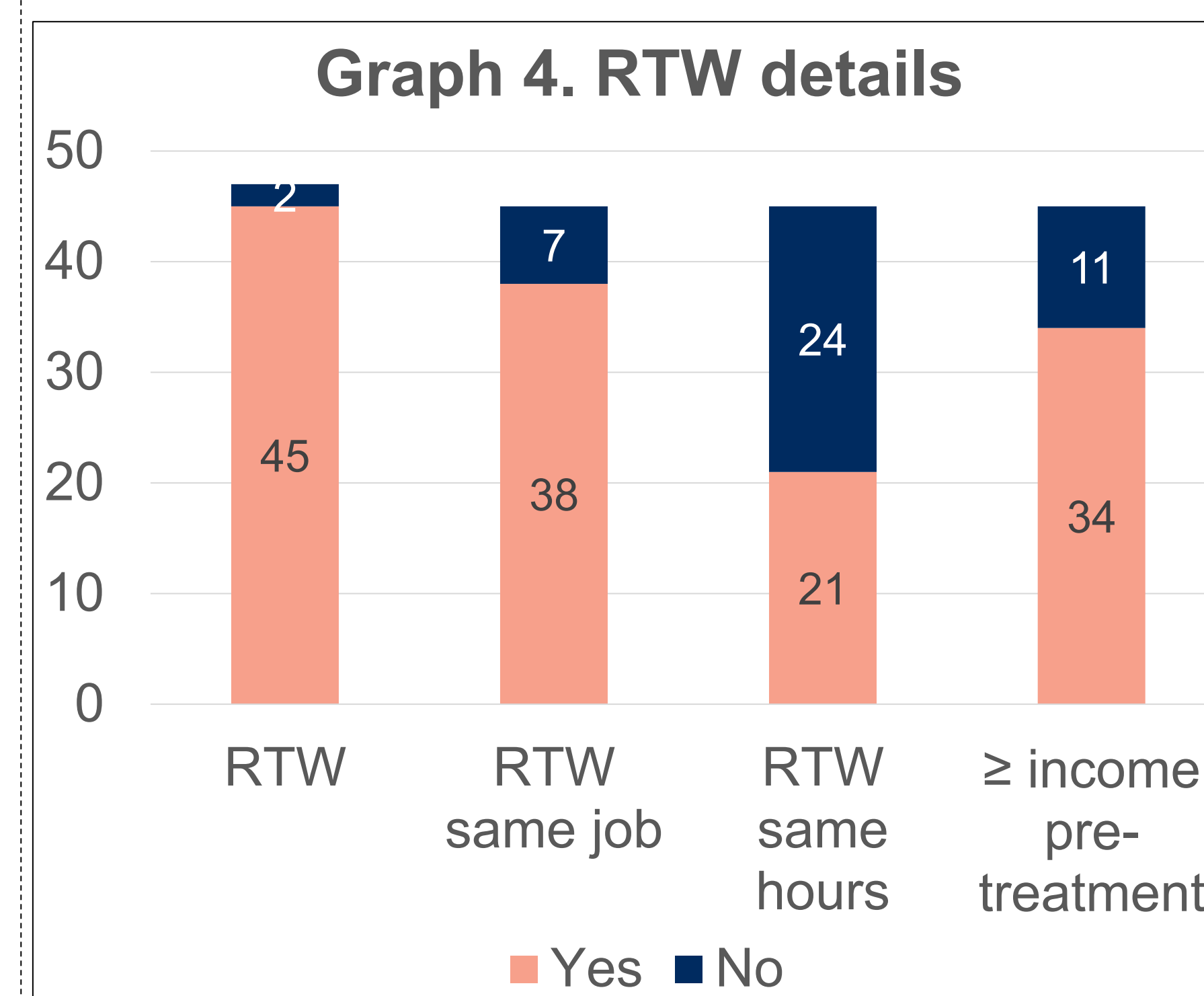
- 38% with tertiary degree
- 80% had annual income ≥\$52,000 before diagnosis

Graph 3. Employment at time of diagnosis (n=47)



RTW and QOL

- Average time for RTW: 14.3 weeks
- 6 retired after RTW (2 related to treatment effects)
- 35 (77%) returned for financial reasons



	Surgery only (n=22) Mean (SD)	Surgery + adjuvant (n=25) Mean (SD)	Mean difference (95%CI)	P-value
RTW (weeks)	9.7 (11.02)	18.6 (25.23)	8.91 (2.9-20.7)	0.13

HADS	Mean (SD)
Depression	2.4 (2.6)
Anxiety	4.2 (3.8)

- QLQ C30: high QOL scores post- TORS
- QLQ H&N43: dry mouth (p=0.0001)
- HADS score <7 = Normal