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Table 4: Current approach at our institution to elective irradiation of RP LN in the treatment of oropharyngeal carcinoma.

Primary subsite	Elective treatment to ipsilateral RP LN	Elective treatment to contralateral RP LN			
		NO	Ipsilateral LN+ only	Contralateral LN+	Ipsilateral RP LN+
	Any N stage	NO	Ipsilateral LN+ only	Contralateral LN+	Ipsilateral RP LN+
BOT without soft palate/PPW involvement*	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Tonsil without soft palate/PPW involvement	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
BOT with soft palate/PPW involvement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
BOT with soft palate/PPW involvement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Soft palate	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
PPW	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

\*In cases with large central BOT tumour it may not be possible to define which side is ipsilateral v. contralateral. Recommendation would be to treat bilateral RP LN.

Abbreviations: BOT=base of tongue, RP LN=retropharyngeal lymph node, PPW=posterior pharyngeal wall.