

More Information about Oral Cancer

- The ADA is announcing a nationwide awareness campaign urging people to see their dentist regularly for oral cancer examinations.
- Oral cancer is more likely to occur among people over the age of 40. Tobacco and alcohol use increase the risk of developing oral cancer. Knowing the risk factors and seeing your dentist for oral cancer screenings can help prevent this deadly disease.
- Oral cancer is as common as leukemia and claims more lives than either melanoma or cervical cancer. Its incidence is rising among women, young people and non-smokers.
- 1 in 4 people with oral cancer have no known risk factors for the disease.
- Small white or red mouth spots, called lesions, might contain abnormal cells that could develop into oral cancer over the next several years. If these abnormal cells are identified early, and if necessary, the spot can be surgically removed before the cells can turn cancerous.
- Your dentist is your partner in maintaining your oral health. Oral cancer screening is a routine part of a dental examination.
- Your dentist will examine the inside of your mouth and your tongue for suspicious lesions and will also feel the lymph nodes in your neck for any abnormalities.
- There are several types of oral cancer screening devices or technologies a dentist can use in addition to conducting an oral cancer examination, one of which is called a BrushTest. As powerful as a pap smear which detects abnormal cells in women, a BrushTest collects cells from a suspicious lesion in a person's mouth. The cells are sent to a laboratory for analysis. If precancerous cells are found, the lesion can be surgically removed if necessary during a separate procedure. It's important to know that all atypical and positive results from a BrushTest must be confirmed by incisional biopsy and histology.
- Even if the results of an oral cancer examination are negative and if the lesion doesn't go away, it is very important to seek follow-up evaluations by your dentist or physician.
- By identifying suspicious lesions early, you can greatly reduce the risk of developing oral cancer.
- The ADA Council on Scientific Affairs' Acceptance of Oral CDx Computer-Assisted Brush Biopsy Analysis Method is based on its finding that the product is an effective adjunct to the oral cavity examination in the early detection of precancerous and cancerous oral lesions, when used as directed. All Oral CDx 'atypical' and 'positive' results must be confirmed by incisional biopsy and histology to completely characterize the lesion. Persistent lesions even with negative results must receive adequate follow-up evaluations."

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