

HOW CAN YOUR PROSTHODONTIST HELP?

The American Cancer Society recommends a comprehensive oral evaluation and soft tissue exam annually, yet only one in five patients reports having an oral cancer exam in the last year.

Your prosthodontist is trained to perform a comprehensive evaluation of your mouth including the associated structures in the head and neck area.

An oral cancer exam is painless; treatment for advanced oral cancer is not.

Prosthodontists are dentists who have completed three additional years of postgraduate training beyond dental school. In addition to helping patients detect oral cancer, they use the latest techniques, including advanced digital technology, to create personalized treatment plans and deliver efficient, long-lasting dental care.

Prosthodontists specialize in restoring beautiful smiles with dentures, dental implants, cosmetic dentistry, crowns, bridges, and more. They are dedicated to improving the oral health of their patients, from appearance to function.

Everything starts with a smile. Doesn't your smile deserve the best care possible?

Visit a prosthodontist today.



Your smile.
Our specialty.®

compliments of

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oral cancer



A silent killer often detected too late.
Curable 75 percent of the time
when caught early.

Get checked...it could save your life.

ACP
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF
PROSTHODONTISTS

STARTLING FACTS

- Oral cancer kills one American every hour of every day, according to the National Cancer Institute.
- Only 50 percent of those diagnosed will survive more than five years; a pattern largely unchanged in the last 50 years despite advances in treatment.
- Early detection offers the best chance of survival, yet only one-third of oral cavity cancer is found in the earliest stages when treatment is most effective.
- Men and women are both at risk. One-third of oral cancer now occurs in patients younger than 55.
- One in seven people newly diagnosed with oral cancer were younger than 40, according to studies published in *The New England Journal of Medicine*.
- 25 percent of this group had no traditional risk factors.
- Strong association exists between oral cancer and human papilloma virus (HPV), the same virus associated with cervical cancer in women. Because HPV is sexually transmitted, there is a link between oral sex and the potential development of oral cancer.

WHO IS MOST AT RISK?

Smokers

People who use tobacco are six times more likely to develop oral cancer. Eight of 10 oral cancer patients are smokers. This includes smokeless tobacco users. Additionally, the effects of electronic cigarettes and “vaping” are not yet known, however any agent that could potentially traumatize the oral cavity should be avoided.

Heavy alcohol drinkers

80 percent of people diagnosed with oral cancer consume more than 21 drinks weekly.

HPV infected

People with history of oral human papilloma virus infections are at greater risk to develop oral cancer even if they don't smoke or drink. Men are more likely to develop HPV and tonsil cancers and base of tongue cancers.

You are at greater risk...

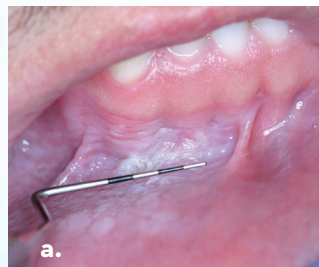
- 18 and older: history of HPV infection of the oral cavity
- 40 and older: tobacco use
- 40 and older: tobacco and alcohol in combination, or history of oral cancer

WHAT ARE THE WARNING SIGNS?

- Red or white patches in or behind the mouth
- Mouth sores or ulcers that bleed easily and do not heal
- Unexplained lump in the neck, throat, or floor of the mouth
- Difficulty or discomfort swallowing
- Pain and tenderness in teeth or gums
- Change in the fit of dentures or partial dentures
- Visible change in mouth tissue
- Unpleasant sensations (pain, discomfort, numbness)
- Diminished ability to perform normal functions such as opening jaw, chewing, or swallowing
- Unexplained swelling or fullness in the neck

Where does oral cancer occur?

About two-thirds of cancer of the mouth or oral cavity occurs in the floor of mouth and tongue, but can occur in the upper or lower jaw, sinus, lips, gums, and cheek lining. Just behind the mouth is an area known as the oropharynx. Oropharyngeal cancer (one-third of cases) occurs in the back of the tongue, tonsils, and throat tissue.



a) A precancerous lesion caused by habitually holding snuff in this area.

b) These inflamed gums are actually cancer. The patient lost over 1/2 of her upper jaw to treat it.

c) The patient thought he bit his tongue and bruised it, but this is cancer.