



ORAL CANCER

More than 45,000 Americans are diagnosed with oral cancer every year. The death rate for oral cancer is higher than for cervical cancer, Hodgkin's lymphoma, cancer of the testes, or thyroid cancer. When oral cancer is detected early, patients have an 80 to 90% survival rate. Unfortunately, most oral cancers are detected in their later stages.

What are the symptoms of oral cancer?

The most common signs include:

- A lump or mass inside the mouth or neck
- Difficulty in swallowing, speaking, or chewing
- Hoarseness that lasts for a long time
- Numbness in the mouth or face area
- Persistent earache
- Unexplained bleeding in the mouth

What can be done?

Everyone should receive an annual oral cancer examination. At our office, we perform a comprehensive oral cancer examination during your first visit of the year. We evaluate your face, head and neck. Then we assess your lips, gums, tongue, under the tongue, inside the cheeks, and on the roof of your mouth.

What are some personal behaviors associated with oral cancer?

Tobacco and alcohol use are often contributing factors. Exposure to HPV-16 virus (human papilloma virus) also increases the risk of oral cancer.

If you have any questions about oral cancer, oral cancer examinations or anything related to this subject, please let us know.