

Oral Cancer

Cancer is defined as the uncontrollable growth of cells that invade and cause damage to surrounding tissue. Oral cancer appears as a growth or sore in the mouth that does not go away. Oral cancer, which includes cancers of the lips, tongue, cheeks, floor of the mouth and hard palate, can be life threatening if not diagnosed and treated early.

The most common symptoms of oral cancer include:

- Swellings/thickening, lumps or bumps, rough spots/crusts/or eroded areas on the lips, gums, or other areas inside the mouth
- The development of velvety white, red or speckled (white and red) patches in the mouth
- Unexplained bleeding in the mouth
- Unexplained numbness, loss of feeling, or pain/tenderness in any area of the face, mouth, neck, or ear
- Persistent sores on the face, neck, or mouth that bleed easily and do not heal within 2 weeks
- Difficulty chewing or swallowing, speaking or moving the jaw or tongue
- Hoarseness, chronic sore throat, or change in voice (especially slurred speech)
- A change in the way your teeth or dentures fit together
- Dramatic weight loss
- A lump in the neck

**If you believe you have a patient displaying symptoms of oral cancer,
we invite you to refer them to our office
for further evaluation.**