

Oral Cancer

Frequently Asked Questions



Dear Valued Patient,

In our continuing efforts to provide the highest standard of care, Altima Dental is proud to announce a supplementary method of checking for oral cancer as an integral part of our comprehensive oral cancer exams.

What is the incidence of oral cancer in Canada?

- 3 people die every day from oral cancer in Canada
- The five-year survival rate of oral cancer is lower than the survival rates of breast, cervical and prostate cancer
- Late detection of oral cancer is the primary reason that incidences of this disease continue to increase

What are the risk factors for oral cancer?*

- Most people diagnosed with oral cancer are 50+
- Excessive alcohol and/or tobacco use
- Infection of the oral cavity with the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV 16/18) may also be a risk factor
- Chewing betel nut or sun exposure to the lips
- **As many as 25% of people develop oral cancer without any known risk factors**

How is oral cancer best detected?

- Visual examination of the oral tissues by your dental practitioner
- Clinical studies have determined that using Tissue Fluorescence Imaging (TFI) after the standard oral cancer exam may improve the ability to identify and evaluate suspicious areas at their earliest stages
- A TFI exam is safe, painless, and takes only minutes to perform
- TFI is not a diagnosis, rather a screening tool that can identify suspicious areas that may require further testing



Oral Cancer Risks by Patient Profiles

Increased Risk

- Patients age 18 - 49
- Sexually active patients (HPV - under study)

High Risk

- Patients age 50 and older
- Tobacco users younger than age 50

Highest Risk

- Patients age 50 and older with lifestyle risk factors (tobacco use)
- Patients with a history of oral cancer

- Early detection of pre-cancerous tissue can minimize or eliminate the potentially disfiguring effects of oral cancer and possibly save your life
- Other proven technologies such as mammograms, Pap smears and colonoscopies offer similar early detection of cancer

Who should be checked for oral cancer?

- We recommend that all of our patients be checked for oral cancer on a yearly basis, as part of your overall preventative health care
- Your insurance plan may cover this exam

Contact us today to book your oral cancer exam.

It could save your life.

1.888.81SMILE

Love your smile!®

*Source: Canadian Cancer Statistics & JCDA

