



Oral Cancer Screening

Candida Castillo D.M.D, F.A.G.D; C.A.G.S

2148 Mineral Spring Ave. North providence RI 02911 www.smileri.com

401-232-7777

During your next checkup, you may want to have an oral cancer screening to see if you are at risk

of developing oral cancer. Oral cancer screenings are designed to try to catch the early signs of oral cancer before they progress to a more advanced stage.

[Oral cancer screenings](#) are important because oral cancer can be successfully treated if caught early enough.

Approximately 84% of oral cancer cases can be detected early by a dental health professional. Dentist have many methods of detecting early signs of oral cancer such as: any discoloration or mouth sores in your mouth, lumps or abnormalities. If they detect any form of abnormality in your mouth, a sample of it send to a lab for further testing.

How do I know if I'm at risk for oral cancer?

Here are some key risk factors for oral cancer to help you determine if you are at risk:

- Age (People over 40 are more at risk)
- Smoking or tobacco use
- Heavy alcohol use
- Human papillomavirus (HPV)
- Gender (Men are more susceptible than women)
- An unhealthy diet
- Prologue sun exposure

Although it is proven that people who have been diagnosed with oral cancer usually have at least one of these risk factors, there is a growing rate of people that are diagnosed with oral cancer who have no risk factors at all.

Therefore, if you don't have any of the factors above, oral cancer screenings are still important in maintaining your overall health.

Oral Cancer Symptoms

When a dentist does an oral cancer screening, they look out for the following symptoms:

- Red or white patches in your mouth
- Spots that continuously bleed or don't heal
- A lump or a hard spot in your mouth
- Numbness or pain when you bite down on your teeth

link below for full articles.

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