

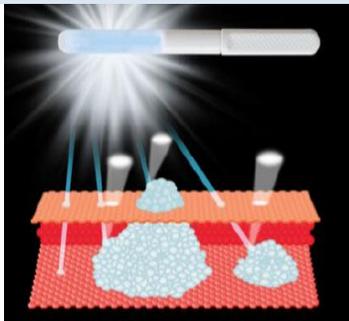
Free Fluoride Treatment
with Your Cleaning, just
tell us you read newsletter



The following tests are
now provided in our
Practice:

The OraRisk[®] HPV test is a non-invasive, easy-to-use screening tool to identify the type(s) of oral HPV, a mucosal viral infection that could potentially lead to oral cancer. OraRisk[®] HPV enables the clinician to establish increased risk for oral cancer and determine appropriate referral and monitoring conditions.

ViziLite[®] TBlue[®] is used to help oral healthcare professionals identify, evaluate, monitor and mark abnormal oral cell lesions suspicious for pathology, including precancerous and cancerous cells that may be difficult to see during a regular visual exam.



Oral Cancer and HPV Testing at Premier Dental

As you know, we continue to bring top services to our patients, and we would like to share our new approach to cancer screening and HPV testing.

Cancer facts:

Close to 42,000 Americans will be diagnosed with oral or pharyngeal cancer this year. It will cause over 8,000 deaths, killing roughly 1 person per hour, 24 hours per day. Of those 42,000 newly diagnosed individuals, only slightly more than half will survive 5 years.

Historically the mortality rate associated with these types of cancers are particularly high not because they are hard to discover or diagnose, but due to the cancer being discovered routinely too late in its development. Today, that statement is still true: late stage discovery is more common. Another obstacle to early discovery (and the resulting better outcomes) is the rise of a virus, called HPV16, which contributes more to the incidence rate of oral cancers, particularly in the posterior part of the mouth, the oropharynx, the tonsils, the base of tongue areas. In turn, many times the detectable lesions or discolorations that have historically been the early warning signs of the disease process are not visible.

Often oral cancer is only discovered when the cancer has metastasized to another location, most likely the lymph nodes of the neck. Prognosis at this stage of discovery is

DID YOU KNOW, THAT?

Each red blood cell lives an average of 4 months and travels between the lungs and other tissue 75,000 times before returning to bone marrow to die!

It takes 17 muscles to smile and 43 to frown!

The most commonly forgotten item for travelers is their toothbrush!

Food for the thought:

“Try not to become a man of success. Rather become a man of value.”

– Albert Einstein



significantly worse than when it is caught in a localized intra-oral area. Besides the metastasis, at these later stages, the cancer is particularly more dangerous because the primary tumor has had time to invade deep into local structures. Patients, who survive a first encounter with the disease, have up to a 20 times higher risk of developing a second cancer. This heightened risk factor can last for 5 to 10 years after the first occurrence. There are several types of oral cancers, but around 90% are squamous cell carcinomas.

HPV CONNECTION WITH ORAL CANCER

The human papilloma virus (HPV) is a double-stranded DNA virus that infects the epithelial cells of skin and mucosa. The moist epithelial surfaces (squamous cells) include all areas covered by skin and/or mucosa such as the mouth interior, throat, tongue, tonsils, vagina, cervix, vulva, penis (the urethra - the opening), and anus. Transmission of the virus occurs when these areas come into contact with a virus, allowing it to transfer between epithelial cells. While it is established that sexual contact, both conventional and oral, are means of transferring the HPV virus (through direct skin to skin contact,) it is still poorly understood what other transfer pathways may exist.

The leading cause of oropharyngeal cancer is from HPV. The HPV family contains almost 200 strains, and it is one of the most common viruses in the United States. It is important to understand that not every HVP strand can cause cancer. Of the nine strands that are high risk, only one is strongly associated with oropharyngeal cancer, **HPV16**. A handful more strands are associated with benign growths (warts). Finally, other than knowing that they exist, the remaining vast-majority of HPV strains, give us no evidence that they harm us in any way.

Reference: <http://oralcancerfoundation.org>



Please meet our new team members!

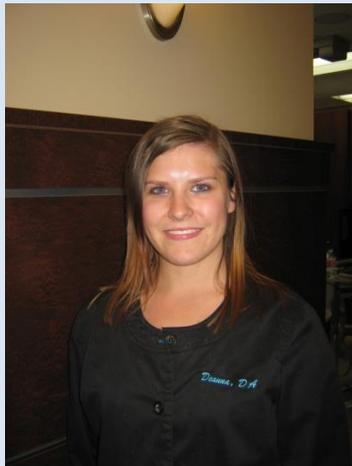
Sunshine Snyder started at Premier Dental in August 2013 as Insurance Manager, and she looks forward to help you understand your insurance benefits and help you make the most of your Dental Benefits. Sunshine also schedules your appointments and is responsible for other office duties. Customer service is her specialty and she understands that a great dental office experience is key to continuing healthy oral hygiene. "I love working for Premier Dental Associates, I am learning many aspects of the dental field (like Implants) that I never knew before. The doctors and staff are very intelligent and also know how to make the office a fun place for patients and co-workers alike."

Sunshine has worked as an Office Manager or Administrative Assistant in a few different businesses since graduating from Mentor High School in 1995. In addition, she is currently enrolled at Cuyahoga Community College taking business classes. In her spare time she is enrolled at Penn Foster College taking classes for Veterinary Technician. Animals are a passion for Sunshine and her goal is to work in a Veterinarian Clinic on weekends, upon completion of her Veterinarian Technician degree. Prior to enrolling at Penn Foster College, Sunshine has volunteered at an animal rescue organization for many years and loves helping out abused and neglected animals.

Sunshine enjoys family time with her daughter, step-son and her boyfriend of many years. She currently has 3 cats (Rudy, Gilly Bob and Abu) and loves them like her children. She is also a Browns fan, despite the disappointment every year!!!

Fall 2013 Premier Dental Associates Newsletter

Deanna Covelli –Dental Assistant



Deanna has been dental assistant for almost a year. She developed an interest in dental assisting when she observed her friend working in a pediatric office. Her friend made her patients feel comfortable and secure, and she wanted to be just like her. Deanna went to the Cleveland Institute of Dental and Medical Assistants, where she obtained the degree in dental assisting, as well as radiology license. She graduated with high honors. Working for Premier Dental brought new and exciting knowledge for Deanna, for example Crowns, Root Canal Therapy, and tooth extractions- those are all the procedures that she likes to assist with. Even though those are her favorites, she still loves all parts of dentistry. She loves seeing her patients smile when they have completed all their dental work. "It's the best feeling in the world to make someone so happy." In her spare time she likes to spend time with her family, friends, and boyfriend. "I love family activities and being outside whenever I can." Deanna also loves going to Ohio State football games, Indians games, and Cav's games. "I love what I do, and I always want to know more!"