



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

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.

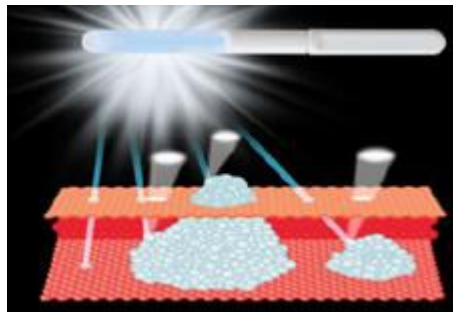
Transmission of the virus occurs when these areas come into contact with a virus, allowing it to transfer between epithelial cells. While it is established that sexual contact, both conventional and oral, are means of transferring the HPV virus (through direct skin to skin contact,) it is still poorly understood what other transfer pathways may exist. The leading cause of

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 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.



Vizilite Cancer Screenign is now available at our office. ViziLite TBlue is used to help oral health proffesionals identify, evaluate , monitor and mark abnormal oral cell lesions suspicious for pathology, including precancerous and cancerous cells that may be difficult to see during regular

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>



An example of stained tissues.

dental examination.

Schedule your Cancer Examination Today!


Some Dental Humor



Food for the thought:

"Try not to become a man of success.
Rather become a man of value."
– Albert Einstein

"I know that I am intelligent,
because I know that I know
nothing."
- Socrates

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