



Facts about Oral Cancer

Early detection of oral cancer is crucial

Your dentist can spot specific signs and symptoms of more than 120 diseases, including oral cancer, as part of a routine dental exam. Regular check-ups increase the chances of catching any potentially cancerous or precancerous lesions early and successfully treating them. Nearly 50,000 Americans are diagnosed with oral cancer each year.¹ Of those, about 64 percent will live 5 years or more. When oral cancer is detected in its later stages, the survival rate is low.

What you need to know about oral cancer

Any part of your mouth can be affected by oral cancer. This includes your gums, cheeks, tongue and lips. Small red or white spots can be an early symptom of oral cancer, making it difficult to detect. If you experience a mouth sore that does not heal, visit your dentist or doctor immediately.

Oral cancer in the U.S.

In the United States, more than a third of all women and nearly half of all men will be diagnosed with cancer during their lifetime according to the American Cancer Society.

When detected early, oral cancer is easier to treat than many other types of cancers, and it can be detected during your regular dental visits.



Individuals who consume excessive amounts of alcohol or who use tobacco elevate their risk for oral cancer. However, about 25 percent of oral cancer patients have no known risk factors. Young people and women continue to be the fastest growing segments of the population who are diagnosed with oral cancer.

Protect yourself from oral cancer

People tend to visit their dentist more frequently than a regular physician, which allows dental professionals to detect many diseases early, including oral cancer. Should you have any unexplained red or white spots in your mouth, your dentist can quickly and painlessly perform a brush biopsy to test for oral cancer. Further testing may be conducted if a dentist deems it necessary.

Always remember, early detection is crucial when it comes to successfully treating oral cancer. These tactics may even save a life.

Visit **truassure.com** for more oral health resources and information.

¹*American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts & Figures 2017.*