

We give you
more reasons to
smile

Ask Your Dentist for an Oral Cancer Exam



Approximately 28,000 Americans are diagnosed with Oral Cancer each year.¹ However, early detection and proper treatment can help prevent oral cancers.

Did you know that Oral Cancer is the **sixth deadliest cancer** in America? Despite advances in surgical techniques, radiation treatments and chemotherapy, survival rates remain low when compared to other cancers. Regular check-ups can help detect the early stages of oral cancer or pre-cancerous conditions².

An **oral cancer exam** is basically painless. To determine the health of tissues in and around your mouth, your dentist will visually examine the roof of your mouth, the insides of your cheeks, and the underside of your tongue. This simple screening is a vital step in protecting your oral and overall health.

In about 10% of patients, the dentist may notice suspicious spots or sores. When this happens, your dentist may recommend a simple test such as a **brush biopsy** that can detect oral cancer in its earliest stages. Review your plan documents* to learn how your benefits cover this painless, but potentially life-saving, procedure.

Facts about Oral Cancer^{1,2,3}

- Oral cancer causes more than 8,000 deaths annually
- When oral cancer is detected late, the five-year survival rate is about 50%
- Oral cancer is more likely to strike after age 40
- Smoking significantly increases a person's risk of developing oral cancer
- More than 25% of oral cancers occur in people *who do not smoke* and have no other risk factors

Potential Signs & Symptoms** of Oral Cancer^{1,2}

- Patches inside the mouth or on the lips that are red, white, or a mixture of red and white
- White patches are the most common, and sometimes become malignant
- Sores on the lip or in the mouth that won't heal
- Lump in the neck
- Earache
- Pain, tenderness or numbness anywhere in the mouth or on the lips
- Difficulty chewing, swallowing, speaking or moving the jaw or tongue

** The above signs and symptoms do not necessarily always indicate that cancer is involved.



* Depending on your plan type, your co-payment or coinsurance amount will vary.

For more information, visit us on the web at www.cigna.com

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