

Oral Cancer

Frequently Asked Questions



Dear Valued Patient,

In our continuing efforts to provide the highest standard of care, Altima Dental is proud to announce an advanced method of checking for oral cancer as an integral part of our comprehensive oral cancer exams.

What is the incidence of oral cancer in Canada?

- 3 people die every day from oral cancer in Canada
- The five-year survival rate of oral cancer is lower than the survival rates of breast, cervical and prostate cancer
- Late detection of oral cancer is the primary reason that incidences of this disease continue to increase

What are the risk factors for oral cancer?*

- Most people diagnosed with oral cancer are 50+
- Excessive alcohol and/or tobacco use
- Infection of the oral cavity with the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV 16/18) may also be a risk factor
- Chewing betel nut or sun exposure to the lips
- **As many as 25% of people develop oral cancer without any known risk factors**

How is oral cancer best detected?

- Visual examination of the oral tissues by your dental practitioner
- Clinical studies have determined that using fluorescent visualization after the standard oral cancer exam may improve the ability to identify and evaluate suspicious areas at their earliest stages
- The exam using fluorescence is safe and painless
- Early detection of pre-cancerous tissue can minimize or eliminate potentially disfiguring effects of oral cancer and possibly save your life
- Other proven technologies such as mammograms, Pap smears and colonoscopies offer similar early detection of cancer



Oral Cancer Risks by Patient Profiles

Increased Risk

- Patients age 18 - 49
- Sexually active patients (HPV - under study)

High Risk

- Patients age 50 and older
- Tobacco users younger than age 50

Highest Risk

- Patients age 50 and older with lifestyle risk factors (tobacco use)
- Patients with a history of oral cancer

Who should be checked for oral cancer?

- We recommend that all of our patients be checked for oral cancer on a yearly basis, as part of your overall preventative health care
- **Altima Dental is offering this oral cancer exam at NO charge to all new patients**
- **Make a donation to the Canadian Cancer Society at any Altima Dental Centre in April, and we will match your donation**

Contact us today to book your oral cancer exam.

It could save your life.

Proud supporter of the
Canadian Cancer Society



Canadian Cancer Society
Société canadienne du cancer

1 888 939-3333 | www.cancer.ca

*Source: Canadian Cancer Statistics & JCDA

**To find oral cancer early, a yearly check-up by a dentist is recommended. The Canadian Cancer Society supports checking for oral cancer but does not specifically endorse Altima Dental. For more info about cancer contact the Canadian Cancer Society.