

Oral Cancer Screening

What Is Oral Cancer Screening?

A dentist or doctor looks for signs of cancer in your mouth. Screening may find mouth cancer early, when treatment works better.

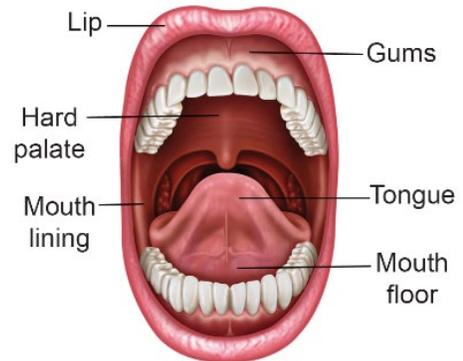
Who Can Benefit from Screening?

Oral cancer screening can help people who have a higher risk. Here are some things that raise your risk of oral cancer:

- Infection with a type of human papillomavirus (HPV). HPV can infect the tonsils and back of throat after unprotected oral sex. It causes most oral cancers in the United States.
- Any kind of tobacco use, including these:
 - Cigars
 - Cigarettes
 - Pipes
 - Chewing tobacco
 - Snuff
- Smoking and drinking alcohol. People who use both have a higher risk than people who use either alone.
- Sun exposure. Long-term sun exposure to the face increases the risk of cancer on the lips.
- A previous diagnosis of oral cancer.

How is Oral Cancer Screening Done?

Your dentist or doctor can check for signs of oral cancer during a routine check-up. The doctor or dentist looks inside your mouth and throat for sores or lumps that could become cancer. The exam also includes checking your neck for lumps.



Areas where oral cancer can start

What are Warning Signs of Oral Cancer?

Make an appointment with your doctor or dentist if any of these last longer than 2 weeks:

- Sore throat that doesn't heal
- Changes inside your mouth
 - Lump or thickening
 - White or reddish patch
 - Loose teeth
 - Change in the way your dentures fit
- Tongue pain
- Jaw pain or stiffness
- Difficult or painful chewing
- Feeling that something is caught in your throat

For more information about oral cancer, contact the G. Mitchell Morris Cancer Learning Center at Huntsman Cancer Institute:

Visit: 1950 Circle of Hope, 6th floor of HCI's hospital

Call: 1-888-424-2100 toll free

Text: 801-528-1112 (text only)

Chat live: www.huntsmancancer.org/clc

Email: cancerinfo@hci.utah.edu