

Oral Cancer: Causes & Symptoms:

The term **Oral Cancer** includes cancers of the mouth, the pharynx, the oropharynx, and on the exterior lip of the mouth. For more than a decade there has been an increase in the rate of occurrence of oral and oropharyngeal cancers.

What puts someone at risk of developing Oral Cancer? Tobacco & alcohol abuse. Accumulative damage from other factors, such as tobacco use, alcohol consumption, and persistent viral infections such as HPV, are the real culprits with much greater risk when combined.

HVP: Infection with sexually transmitted Human Papillomavirus (specifically the HVP 16 type) has been linked to a subset of oral cancers.

AGE: Risk increases with age. Oral cancer most often occurs in people over the age of 40.

SUN EXPOSURE: Cancer of the lip can be caused by sun exposure.

DIET: A diet low in fruits & vegetables may play a role in cancer development

What are possible signs & symptoms of Oral Cancer? A sore ,irritation, lump or thick patch in the mouth, lip or throat.

A white or red patch in the mouth.

A feeling that something is caught in the throat

Difficulty chewing & swallowing

Difficulty moving the jaw or tongue

Numbness in the tongue

Swelling of the jaw that causes dentures to fit poorly or become uncomfortable

Pain in one ear without hearing loss.

Any symptoms more than 2 weeks should be evaluated by a dentist or ENT for an oral cancer exam. **Exam is painless and takes only a few minutes .**

