

Smile Talk with Kimmy....



It may make you feel a little silly at first, but when your dental hygienist asks you to stick out your tongue she is examining your mouth for cancer. Common forms of mouth cancer include throat cancer and tongue cancer. Approximately 35,000 people in the United States were diagnosed with some form of oral cancer in 2008. In North America, one person dies from oral cancer every hour of every day.

The incidence of oral cancer is increasing more and more! Those who are at highest risk are tobacco and alcohol users age 40 and older. However, the largest rise in oral cancer is among young non-smoking teens and recently a correlation has been found between oral cancer and the Human Papilloma-virus. You could be at risk and totally unaware.

If detected early, oral cancer has a very high survival rate. Our office recently acquired a Velscope system that we have incorporated into our oral cancer screening program. With the Velscope, we are able to detect abnormal tissue three to four layers deep using fluorescent light technology. Chances are you don't have oral cancer, but wouldn't it be nice to know for sure? The Velscope is a painless, convenient way to find out!

If you have questions or concerns regarding oral cancer, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

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*The Smile
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