



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

Tips and Tricks: Oral Cancer



- Oral Cancer is part of a group of cancers called head and neck cancers. It can develop in any part of the oral cavity and many times oral cancer will begin on the tongue or the floor of the mouth.

- Men face are twice as likely to develop oral cancer as women, and men who are over age 50 face the greatest risk.



- Risk factors for developing oral cancer include: smoking, smokeless tobacco, excessive consumption of alcohol, family history and excessive exposure to the sun.

- Tobacco use is responsible for most cases of oral cancer.

- Alcohol, particularly beer and hard liquor, are associated with an increased risk of developing oral cancer.



- The risk of developing oral cancer is higher in people who use both tobacco and alcohol. Avoiding or stopping the use of tobacco decreases the risk of oral cancer.

- 25% of all oral cancer cases occur in people who do not smoke and who only drink alcohol occasionally.

- When found early, oral cancers have an 80 to 90 percent survival rate.



Symptoms of Oral Cancer

- Patches inside your mouth or on your lips that are white or red
- Sores in your mouth or on your lips that won't heal
- Bleeding in your mouth
- Loose teeth
- Difficulty or pain when swallowing or wearing dentures
- A lump in your neck
- An earache