DELTA DENTAL®

Get the facts about oral cancer

Oral cancer is a serious condition. Many myths exist about this disease so let's break down the most common myths and get to the facts.

Myth: Oral cancer is rare.

Fact: Over 58,000 Americans will be diagnosed with oral cancer this year.[1]

Myth: Young people don't need to worry about it.

Fact: It is true that oral cancer risk increases signficiantly after age 50. However, its occurrence is becoming more prevalent among young people, likely due to a link between the cancer and the human papillomavirus (HPV).

Myth: It only affects smokers.

Fact: Both nicotine and tobacco use are major risk factors for oral cancer, but other risk factors play a part, including alcohol use, HPV and genetics.

Myth: Oral cancer cannot be prevented.

Fact: Quitting smoking, limiting alcohol use, and eating more veggies all lower your risk of oral cancer. Use lip balm with SPF30 or more when you go outside, and practice safe sex to reduce your risk of getting HPV.

The good news: Early detection is critical, and your dentist is up to the job. He or she will examine you for oral cancer during a normal dental exam. The screening is non-invasive and is conducted at no additional cost to you.

Ask your dentist for an oral cancer screening today!

[1] The Oral Cancer Foundation

The Power of Smile™
Learn more about how your oral health connects to your overall health at:
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