

Oral Cancer Statistics

It is estimated that approximately 30,000 patients are diagnosed with cancer of the oral cavity and pharynx each year.

The average number of years of life lost due to oral cancer is 16, which is one more than all cancers in general.

More deaths occur annually from oral cancer than from cervical cancer.

Only half of those diagnosed with oral cancers are still alive after 5 years.

The incidence of oral cancer and the mortality rate due to oral cancers have been almost three times greater in males than females.

African Americans have a slightly higher incidence than Caucasians.

At least 75% of oral cancers are attributed to the use of tobacco of all forms.

Alcohol use has also been positively correlated with the incidence of oral cancer.

The relative risk of oral cancer created by combined tobacco and alcohol use is multiplicative and substantially greater than that of either smoking or alcohol use alone.

More than 75% of all oral cancers can be detected by sight or palpation.

Tongue lesions account for approximately one third of all oral cancers.

Oral cancer is considered one of the most preventable of all cancers!

Squamous cell carcinomas account for 90% of the malignant tumors in the oral cavity.

It is important to note that a thorough oral cancer screening is performed at the Comprehensive Oral Exam appointment.

The most common sites for oral cancer are:

- Lips
- Buccal Mucosa (intraoral cheek tissues)
- Floor of the Mouth
- Tongue
- Palate

Source:
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