



Preventive Dentistry: Involves More Than Prevention of Caries

Early Detection Is CRITICAL To Preventing Death By Oral Cancer

- **Deadly - and strangely silent in our society - Oral Cancer is growing at an alarming rate - over 11% in 2007 in the United States alone.**
- **The five-year mortality rate of Oral Cancer is higher than Hodgkin's lymphoma, cervical, thyroid and skin (malignant melanoma) cancers, and kills one person every hour of every day.**

It is important that both private individuals, and members of the dental community, realize that a visit to the dentist is no longer [just] about a filling, a crown, or a postponable cleaning, but is actually a matter of life and death. Dental examinations, when properly done and which include a screening for oral cancer, will save lives. If you are a dental professional, we encourage you to become a member of the foundation, and partner with us in this effort to increase the number of annual screenings which are being done. We can provide you with materials such as waiting room brochures which explain to your patients the risk factors and early signs and symptoms of the disease, as well as help them realize the importance of opportunistic annual screenings.

Published studies show that currently less than 15% of those who visit a dentist regularly, report having had an oral cancer screening. This is unfortunate, when you consider that historically, the greatest strides in combating most cancers have come from increased awareness and aggressive campaigns directed at early detection. It is now commonplace to annually get a PAP smear for cervical cancer, a mammogram to check for breast cancer, or PSA and digital rectal exams for prostate cancer. These screening efforts have been possible as a result of the increased public awareness of the value of



Screening & diagnostic results for this lesion may be found at <http://www.trimira.net/library/soft>

catching cancers in their earliest forms, combined with effective technologies for conducting the examinations. Oral cancer is no different. Actually, it is potentially easier to obtain public compliance for oral cancer screenings, since unlike many other cancer screening procedures, there is no invasive technique necessary to look for it, no discomfort or pain involved, and it is very inexpensive to have your mouth examined for the early signs of disease. Education of the public regarding the risk factors which lead to oral cancer, and the development of public awareness, are primary responsibilities of the dental community.

The Oral Cancer Foundation - http://oralcancerfoundation.org/dental/role_of_dentist.htm

When found early, oral cancer victims have an 80-90% survival rate. However, early detection is too infrequent with oral cancer, contributing to a high mortality rate, greater than other cancer types. Due to the serious nature of the statistics regarding the survival rate of oral cancer when not detected in its early stages, dental practices need to remain a frontline defense against this deadly disease.

Over the last several years, through ongoing CE courses and products like the Vizilite® (Zila Pharmaceuticals), MicroLux/DL (Addent Dental), VELscope® (LED Dental, Inc.) and most recently, the Identafi 3000 Ultra by Dental-Ez, the awareness within the dental community for the increased need to screen patients spiked. Those offices that invested in a screening technology as an adjunct to the visual and digital palpation, began with a focused effort on offering the screening to every patient. However,

in many offices, the resistance from numerous patients and the lack of detection of any serious lesions has led to complacency and a diminished effort to continue to utilize the technology aggressively and consistently. This is a concern in the fight against oral cancer. The effectiveness of early detection does not diminish with each patient that presents with a healthy exam. There are very few “life and death” diagnoses made in the dental office. While oral cancer diagnosis may appear infrequently, one discovery makes a world of difference.

When screenings are done, the oral cavity often presents with numerous benign lesions resulting from a variety of sources such as food burns, lip biting, mouth trauma, canker sores. Traditional screening done visually and by means of digital palpation continue to be the primary screening methods used throughout the U.S. With these new technologies, more data is gained when examining a suspicious lesion. Via fluorescent technology, suspicious cells may be more accurately identified.

Trimira's® new Identafi® 3000 Ultra is Multi-Spectral with three distinct color wavelengths, making it easier to distinguish lesion morphology and vasculature thereby reducing false positives.



Vizilite



VELscope

How It Works

The Identafi® 3000 Ultra uses white, violet and amber wavelengths of light to excite oral tissue in distinct and unique ways. As a result, biochemical changes can be monitored with fluorescence, while morphological changes can be monitored with reflectance. The combined system of fluorescence and reflectance uses the body's natural tissue properties as an adjunctive tool for oral mucosal examination. Conventional examination of tissue is performed using a highly concentrated white light.



MicroLux/DL



Identafi 3000 Ultra

Wearing reusable Identafi® 3000 Ultra filtered eyewear to enhance visual effects and allow transmission of reflected light, the health professional then switches to Violet light for a second observation.

The clinician's photosensitive glasses block the violet excitation light and allow the observance of the tissue's natural fluorescence. Violet light enhances normal tissue's natural fluorescence; however, suspicious tissue appears dark because of its loss of fluorescence.

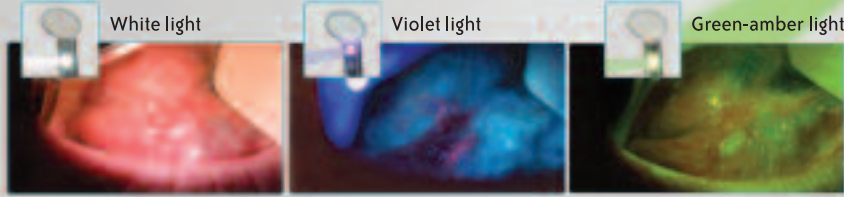
When suspect abnormalities are present the selector is switched to Amber light, which enhances normal tissue's reflectance properties so the clinician may directly observe the difference between normal and abnormal tissue's vasculature. This independent view of vascular architecture may assist in the assessment of confounders when screening and diagnosing oral cancer.

Studies indicate abnormal tissue has a diffuse vasculature, where normal tissue vasculature is clearly defined. The combination of all three Multi-Spectral wavelengths provides the clinician with more visual information, improved results over direct visual exam alone and increased confidence for recommending biopsies.

With the new tools available to greatly increase the accuracy of oral cancer screenings, the key to winning this battle is the continued effort of the dental professional to remain the front line of defense. By continuing to educate patients and emphasize the need for screenings at the same level of other common cancer screenings, this battle can be won.

Screen with Certainty. Detect with Confidence.

Identafi[®]
Oral Cancer Screening Device



A simple yet effective 3-wavelength screening tool that enhances visualization of mucosal abnormalities or premalignant dysplasia that may lead to oral cancer. When you scan with certainty, you detect with confidence. That's the Identafi[®] difference.

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Mo'ne R, D'Arcy J, E. Andersen E, Moutzbelli A. Subgingival plaque removal using a new air-polishing device. J Periodontol. 2010 Jun; 81(1):79-88.