

# VELSCOPE ORAL CANCER SCREEN

**One American dies every hour from oral cancer. Have you had your annual exam?**

## VELscope (Visually Enhanced Light Scope)

Oral cancer is one of the few types of cancers that haven't experienced a significantly reduced mortality rate in the past 30 years.

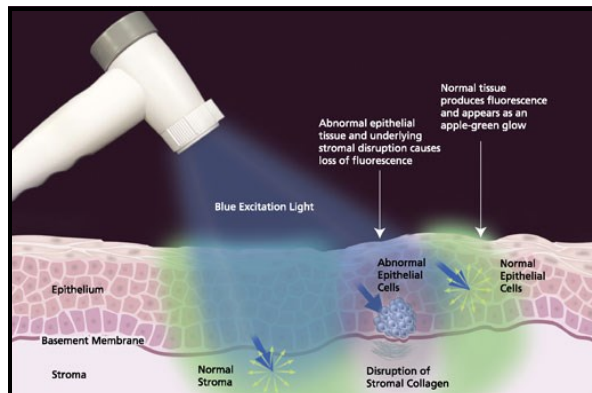
Oral cancer is discovered in late stages about 70% of the time, and often that is simply too late. Fortunately, the survival rate for oral cancer discovered in the early stages is extremely high.

### Who's at risk...

- Smoke or use chew tobacco
- Alcohol consumption
- Human papilloma virus (HPV-16 or HPV-18), a newly identified etiology can be contracted during sexual intercourse and especially oral sex.

While some think this is a rare cancer, mouth cancer will be newly diagnosed in about 100 new people each day in the U.S. along. If you add the sub category of laryngeal cancers, the rate of occurrence (about 10,000 per year) and death are much higher.

As a result, health care experts recommend annual oral cancer screening for all adults aged 18 or older. If you smoke or chew tobacco, screenings are recommended every 6 months.



### We Care...And We Can Help

Our practice has purchased a state-of the art device called the VELscope Oral Cancer Screening System. Along with our conventional oral screening exam, which includes looking inside your mouth for any lesions that might be visible to the naked eye and feeling your neck for any suspicious bumps, we can use the VELscope to literally see beneath the surface to detect potentially dangerous growths we might have otherwise missed.

In most cases, the VELscope exam will reveal nothing of concern and take only a few minutes as part of your annual exam. It involves no pain or inconvenience, and is completely safe. We think you will find the additional cost for this exam to be very reasonable, and it might be that the cost will be covered by your insurance company. We have medical reimbursement papers for you to submit to your medical insurance at our front desk.

We think you'll appreciate the peace-of-mind this screening can provide.



### Lesions under VELscope appear darker.

- No apparent lesion in natural light—Irregular, dark area—confirmed through biopsy to be Carcinoma in Situ (CIS).
- Lesion that didn't look suspicious that turned out to be cancer.

Baseline photos are taken when VELscope exams are done and compared year after year. When found early, oral cancers have an 80 to 90% survival rate. Unfortunately at this time, the majority are found as late stage cancers, and this accounts for the very high death rate of about 45% at 5 years from diagnosis, and high treatment related morbidity in survivors.

If you have any questions about oral cancer or the VELscope exam, please let us know. Your oral health is the key to your overall health, and we want to help you in any way we can.