



New Screening Tool for Mouth Cancer Saves Lives

WRITTEN BY DR. RICHARD WEIGAND

But abnormal tissues, like pre-cancerous and cancer cells will reflect the light like a mirror and show up as bright white. It makes suspect areas easier to see thus promoting early detection. The manual/oral examination that is typically done in the dental office, in addition to the panoramic x-ray of the entire jaw (done every 3-5 years) is good, but finds abnormalities in their later stages. Now, there is a tool that is more predictable, easy and reliable...ViziLite!

This great new screening technology is the only FDA-approved device for the identification and monitoring of oral abnormalities that could lead to oral cancer. The clinical efficacy of ViziLite has been demonstrated in over 13,000 patients and four FDA (Food and Drug Administration) studies. This screening is recommended once per year and while just as valuable, costs less than some of the screening tests for these other cancers. The American Dental Association has established a dental insurance code that applies to the ViziLite exam and some medical insurance companies may cover this valuable test.

If you have never had cancer, chances are you know someone who has received this devastating diagnosis. I do. Thankfully, early detection probably saved his life. ViziLite is a simple test that can give you enormous peace of mind.

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EVERY HOUR OF EVERY DAY, one American dies of oral cancer (cancer of the mouth). Annually, oral cancer kills more people in the United States than cervical cancer, malignant mela-

ed in a significant decline in death rates associated with these cancers. The risk factors associated with oral cancer are increased age, anyone over 40, alcohol and/or tobacco use (especially smoke-

You never think it will happen to you—cancer. It can be a devastating diagnosis. It can completely change your life. It can end it.

noma or Hodgkin's disease. Also, oral cancer, if not fatal, can be potentially disfiguring because by the time it is visible to the naked eye, significant problems may have already taken place. Oral cancer is 90% curable when found early, but the reason the death rates have remained so high for the last 40 years stems from the difficulty of early detection.

Early detection is the key to minimizing the damaging effects of oral cancer. Just as cancer screenings are done by your physician for other cancers, your dentist should do an oral cancer screening at least once per year. Research indicates that cancer screening tools such as mammograms (breast), PSA tests (prostate) and a pap smears (cervical) have result-

less tobacco) and diabetes, one out of four people who develop oral cancer will have absolutely no risk factor—which is why every adult should be aware of what can be done to screen for this devastating cancer?

ViziLite is a revolutionary device that allows dentists and other health care practitioners to improve the identification, evaluation and monitoring of abnormal tissues in the mouth. Here's how it works: The patient swishes with a special liquid which serves to dry the tissues of the mouth but also makes any abnormal cells of tissue more...intense visually. Then a specialized light, ViziLite, is directed into the mouth and onto the tissues. Normal tissue will absorb the light.