



Dear Patient,

As a healthcare provider, I am concerned about oral cancer, which is too often diagnosed in later stages of development and as a result claims more than *one life every hour of every day* in America. It has become the sixth leading cancer among men and is one of the few cancers in which the rate of occurrence is increasing among young adults. Most people are not aware of the potential risks; however, when detected early enough, the survival rate for oral cancer is very high.

At one time oral cancer was predominantly seen among smokers, however, increasingly, oral cancer is being seen in patients of all ages. Although smoking is still a leading factor, many other criteria such as age, family history, ethnicity and alcoholic consumption also play a role. Many experts have surmised that an increasing cause is exposure to the HPV virus, which is the primary precursor of cervical cancer. There are approximately 35,000 newly diagnosed cases of oral cancer every year in the US, 640,000 cases worldwide. **The death rate associated with this cancer is particularly high not because it is hard to discover or diagnose, but due to the cancer being routinely discovered late in its development.** These various factors all point towards the need for better technology to assist in the early detection of this curable disease.

At Dental Solutions, we have always conducted an annual comprehensive oral cancer screening for all of our patients, but we have recently incorporated a new FDA-approved breakthrough technology that will allow us to see things we've been unable to see previously. By detecting potential problems earlier, we'll be providing our patients with the best oral health care currently available.

This new and exciting technology, called VELscope™, is based on the direct visualization of tissue fluorescence and the changes that occur when abnormal cells are present. The VELscope hand piece emits a safe blue light into the oral cavity, causing tissue fluorescence from the surface of the epithelium through to the basal membrane – where pre-malignant changes typically start. Fluorescence visualization assists healthcare professionals in identifying oral abnormalities at the earliest stages; allowing them to discover potentially cancerous lesions that may not be evident under white light. To get more information, you may visit www.velscope.com.

We sincerely care about your overall health as well as your teeth, and therefore, we are now offering this to all adult patients during their oral examinations. We believe that this new technology will assist us in detecting disease at earlier stages and therefore catch abnormalities before they turn into cancer. Your dental insurance may or may not cover the fee for this care. Coverage for this procedure (like most dental procedures) usually varies among insurance companies; however, this modest fee of **\$15.00** is well worth the benefit that this new device provides.

Best Regards,

William B. Stofer, DDS

Jason D. Hemphill, D.D.S.

Below listed are the leading risk factors associated with oral cancer. Please check below if any of the following apply to you:

_____ Use of Tobacco Products

_____ Family Members Have Had Cancer

_____ Drink Alcohol

_____ Over Age 40

_____ **YES**, I would like to have the VELscope™ oral cancer screening test today.

_____ No thank you, I would prefer not to have the VELscope™ oral cancer screening test today.

Print Name : _____

Signature : _____ Date: _____