

## ORAL CANCER SCREENING – Early Detection With A Painless Exam Is Your Best Protection

When you arrive at your initial exam, there are several steps we will take to diagnose your periodontal health. Our exam will include a full medical/dental history review, head/neck examination, full mouth 6-point periodontal charting and review of any radiographs. We also will perform a thorough oral cancer screening at this first visit.

Oral cancer rates are on the rise and the seriousness of this disease cannot be overestimated. To address and reduce the incidence of oral cancer and catch in the earliest stages, our practice has always included a voluntary oral cancer screening at no additional cost in line with our policy of providing the most advanced dental care available to our patients.

People most at risk are those who use tobacco and alcohol, as well as anyone over 40 years of age but does not exclude younger individuals and/or those without classic risk factors. However, statistics show that in over 25% of oral cancer victims do not exhibit any of these risk factors and this year alone over 30,000 Americans will die of oral cancer. As with any cancer, early detection is the most critical factor in defeating this disease which is why we believe it is important enough to include the screening in every exam whether the reason for your visit pertains to one isolated area or full mouth treatment.

Please feel free to ask any questions or concerns you may have or refer to <http://www.oralcancerfoundation.org> for more information.