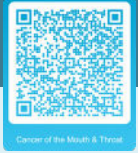


CANCER OF THE MOUTH & THROAT



Cancer of the mouth and throat refer to the development of a cancerous tumor within the lips, cheeks, salivary glands, gums, teeth, tongue, tonsils or nearly any other area within these structures.

Oral (mouth) and pharyngeal (throat) cancers most commonly affect patients over the age of **40** who smoke or chew tobacco. Excessive alcohol consumption, a family history of head and neck cancer, and exposure to the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) may also increase a patient's risk for mouth and throat cancer.

DIAGNOSIS

Tests and procedures used to diagnose cancer of the mouth include:

- ▶ **Physical Exam:** Examination of the lips, mouth, areas of irritation (such as sores and white patches).
- ▶ **Removal of Tissue (Biopsy):** If a suspicious area is found, with a tissue sample the cells can be analyzed for cancer or precancerous symptoms.

SYMPTOMS

Symptoms of the mouth vary upon the type of cancer and location, but may include:

- ▶ White patches in the mouth
- ▶ Abnormal bump or texture
- ▶ A sore on the lips
- ▶ Earache
- ▶ Bleeding
- ▶ Loose teeth
- ▶ Difficulty swallowing

TREATMENT

In order to determine which type of treatment is most appropriate for each patient's individual condition, your doctor will first determine the stage of the cancer through a series of diagnostic exams. A customized treatment plan is then developed, which may include:

- ▶ **Surgery:** Surgery for mouth and throat cancer involves a removal of the tumor and a small margin of surrounding tissue to ensure that all cancerous cells have been successfully eliminated.
- ◊ **Trans-robotic Surgery:** Transoral robotic surgery (also known as TORS) is a procedure to remove mouth and throat cancers. A surgeon uses a computer-enhanced system to guide the surgical tools that allow for more-precise movements in tiny spaces. This procedure allows surgeons to access tumors through the mouth. The surgeon is guided by a **3D** camera and uses technology that can turn **360** degrees and eliminate tremor to resect the tumor. These technological instruments are more precise than the human hand. You will receive anesthesia that will put you to sleep and temporarily block sensation. The surgeon slides the camera and instruments through the opening of your mouth. Then they remove tissue using small incisions and close gaps in the remaining tissue. The procedure generally takes about **90** minutes and patients stay in the hospital for **3**-days or less. The minimally invasive technique means less scarring, shorter recovery times, fewer complications, quicker return to speech and swallowing abilities.
- ▶ **Chemotherapy**
- ▶ **Radiation Therapy**