

{Practice Logo Here}

**THE RISK FACTORS FOR ORAL CANCER HAVE CHANGED.**

**What you can do to reduce your risk...**

**What has changed?**

According to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control), the Human papillomavirus (HPV) is so common that most every adult will have an infection in their lifetime. The virus is fueling an escalation in sexually transmitted oral and oropharyngeal (back of throat) cancers. The symptoms are subtle and often overlooked. They include recurrent tonsillar infections that are not responding to antibiotics, pain in one ear, feeling as though something is caught in the throat, change in speech, hoarseness and other subtle symptoms that shouldn't be ignored.

**What can you do?**

Know the risk factors and the subtle often life-saving symptoms.

Perform an oral cancer screening examination on yourself regularly. Visit [www.checkyourmouth.org](http://www.checkyourmouth.org) for more details and know what to look for.

Have an oral cancer screening done at the dental office including additional screening devices if available.

Seek medical advice regarding the HPV vaccination.

**Who's at risk?**

As with most cancers, age is the primary risk factor for oral cancer. Tobacco and alcohol still play a large role in determining risk, however this new profile is targeting a younger age group particularly males.

**What are we doing?**

Our practice has recently incorporated an additional screening device, VELscope Vx to aid in discovering what may not have been visible with our conventional oral cancer screening exam. VELscope can literally see beneath the surface to where abnormal tissue first starts to develop. Early discovery or pre-cancerous tissue can save lives. *Your mouth can hide a secret.*

The VELscope exam will be offered to you on an annual basis. The fee for this enhanced examination is \$XX.XX

**Yes, I agree to having the VELscope exam done.**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**No, I decline having the VELscope exam done.**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_