Diagnosis and Treatment of Common Oral Lesions Causing Pain

John D. McDowell, DDS, MS
University of Colorado School of Dentistry
Chair, Oral Diagnosis, Medicine and Radiology
Director, Oral Medicine and Forensic Sciences



- Cancer strikes 1 in 3 Americans.
- Cancer directly affects 3 of every 4 American families.
- Estimates indicate that 85 million Americans now alive will be affected with some form of malignancy.



- Cancer incidence in white men
 - Prostate
 - Lung
 - Colorectal
 - Urinary bladder

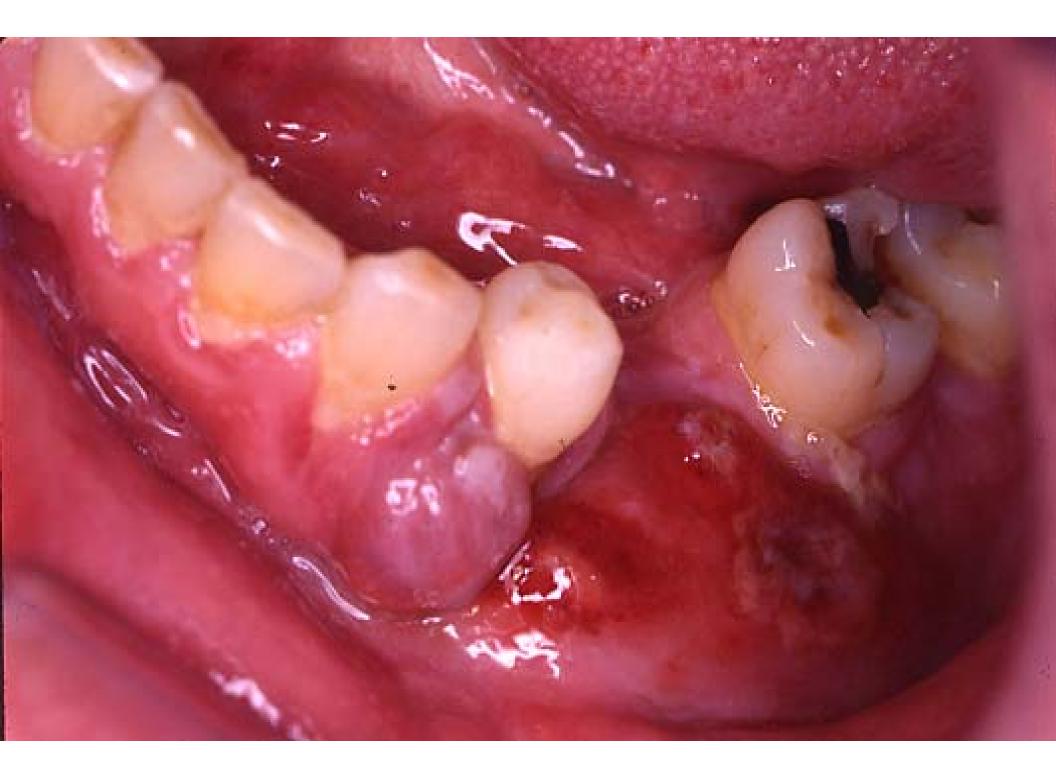


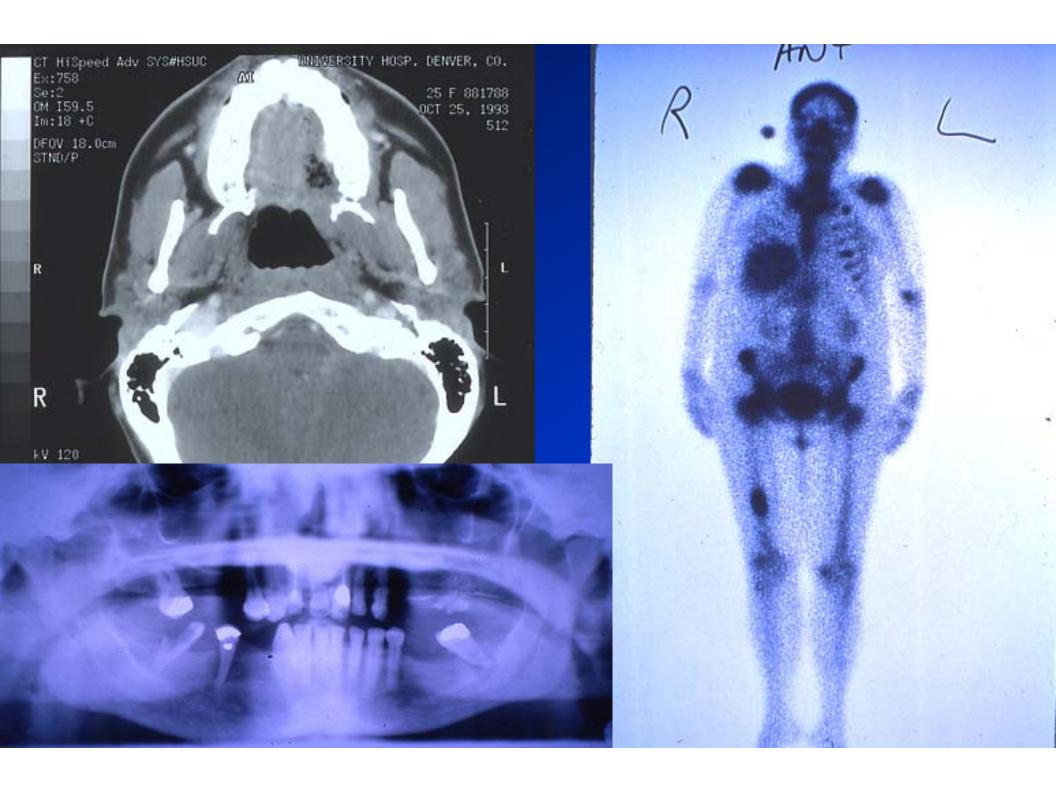
- Cancer incidence in black men
 - Prostate
 - Lung
 - Colorectal
 - Oral (mouth and oropharynx)



Many forms of cancer directly or indirectly affect the jaws or oropharynx either through direct invasion or metastasis.









Metastatic colon lesion to maxilla



- Most common cancers in children and adolescents
 - 1-4 year olds: leukemia
 - 15-19 year olds: lymphomas



Leukemias and lymphomas do affect the oral tissues particularly the gingiva.





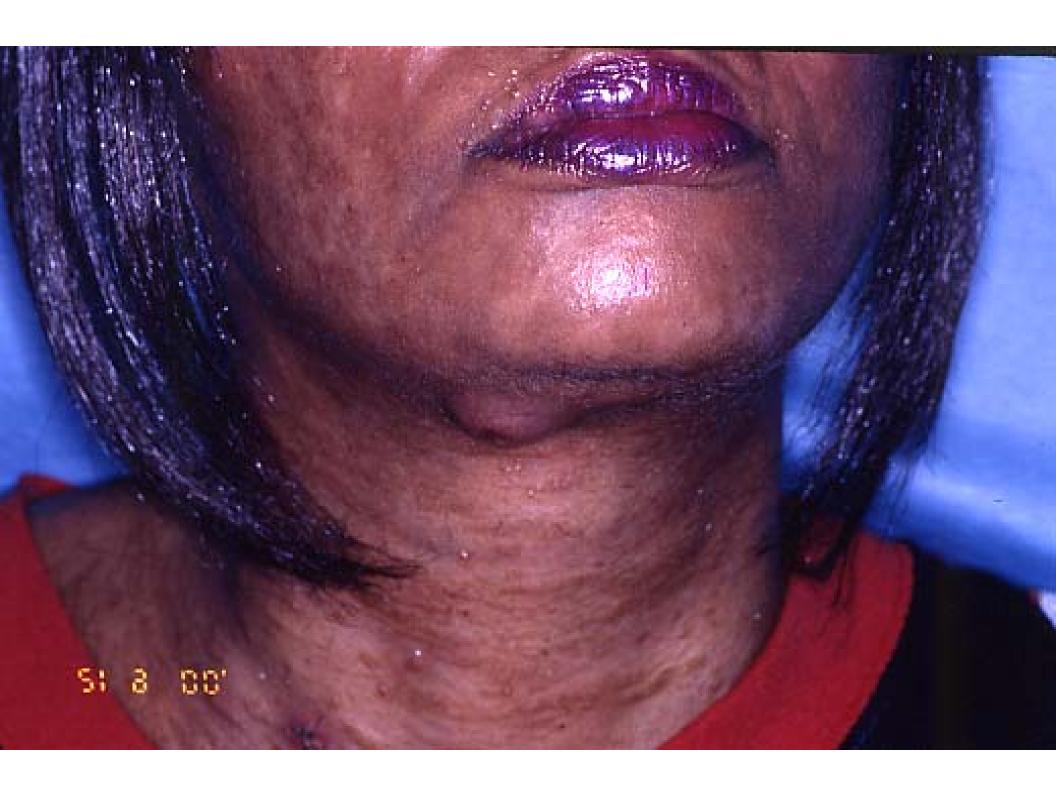






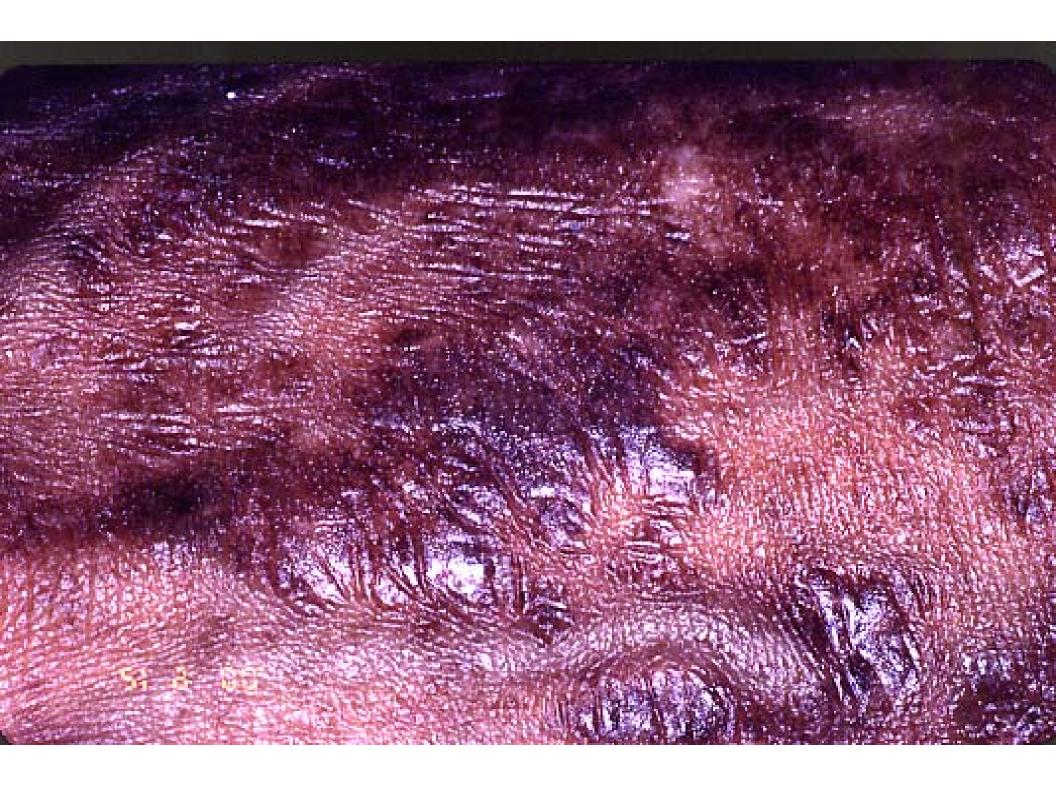






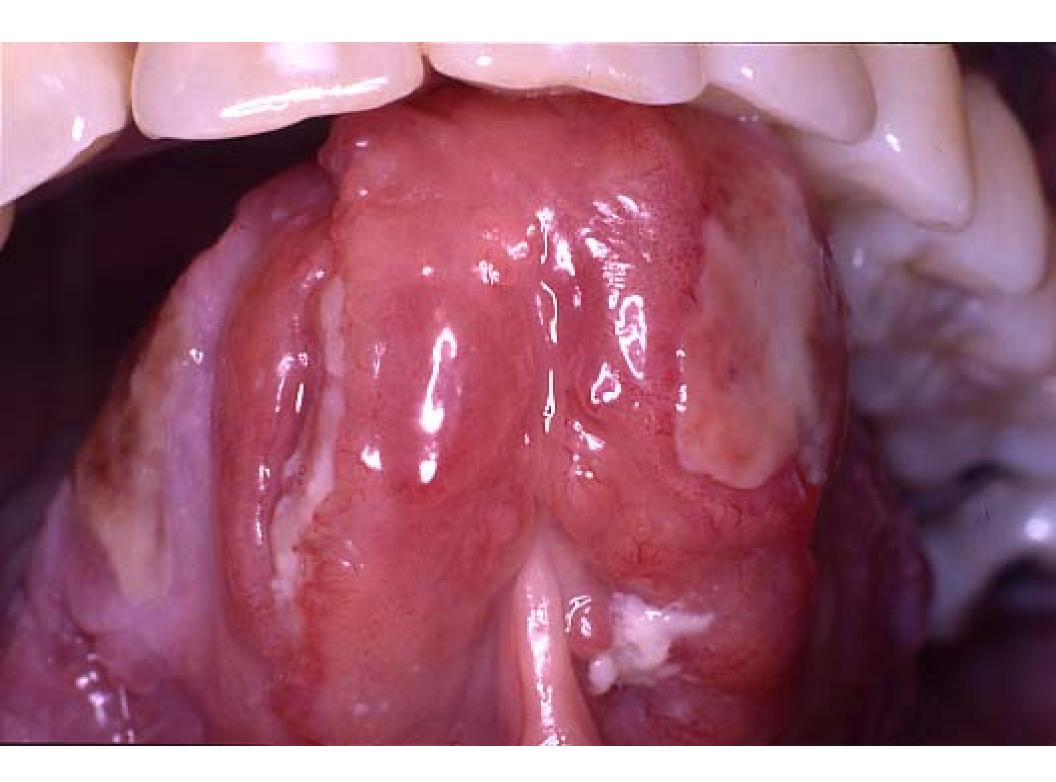


















EPIDEMIOLOGY of OROPHARYNGEAL CANCER



- Incidence: cancer of the mouth and pharynx are the 6th most common location for all cancers
- Represents about 5% of all cancers
- Carcinomas account for about 95% of oral cancers (squamous cells about 90% of those)
- Average age at diagnosis is 65 years old
- Male: Female ratio is now about 2:1



- Cancers of the lips, oral tissues and oropharynx account for about 30,000 new cancer cases in the United States per year.
- If cancers of the nasopharynx, hypopharynx, larynx, sinus and major salivary glands are included, then there are approximately 50,000 new cases of "head and neck" (NON-SKIN, NON-CNS) cancers per year.



- Oropharyngeal cancers kill roughly one person every hour.
- Survival rates for these forms of cancer have not significantly improved over the last decade.
- The death rate for oral cancer exceeds that of cervical cancer, Hodgkins disease, cancers of the brain, liver, testes, kidney ovary and melanoma.

ORAL CANCER

- Oral and pharyngeal cancers account of 8,000 deaths annually
- If cancers of the larynx are included with oral cancers, then there are 12,500 deaths per year
- Of newly diagnosed oropharyngeal cancers, only half will be alive in 5 years (~33% for African-Americans)

Site

Male:Female

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Tongue (30%) 2:1
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Lip (17%) 5:1

Floor of Mouth (14%) **2.2:1**

Adapted from the National Cancer Institute SEER Program



United States Cancer Statistics 2000 Incidence Report

CDC

Cancer Incidence by Primary Site

2000, Males, Age-adjusted (Table 1.1) † ‡

Close Window

Primary Site	All Races	White	Black	Asian/Pacific Islander §
All Sites	546.9	537.3	612.6	341.6
	(545.5-548.4)	(535.8-538.8)	(607.2-618.1)	(334.9-348.4)
Oral Cavity and Pharynx	15.7	15.3	18.2	11.2
	(15.5-16.0)	(15.1-15.6)	(17.3-19.1)	(10.1-12.5)
Lip	1.5 (1.4-1.6)	1.6 (1.6-1.7)	0.2 (0.1-0.3)	~
Tongue	3.7	3.8	3.6	2.1
	(3.6-3.9)	(3.7-3.9)	(3.2-4.0)	(1.6-2.7)
Salivary Gland	1.6	1.6	0.9	1.0
	(1.5-1.7)	(1.6-1.7)	(0.7-1.1)	(0.7-1.4)
Floor of Mouth	1.2	1.1	2.0	0.6
	(1.1-1.2)	(1.0-1.1)	(1.7-2.3)	(0.4-1.1)
Gum and Other Mouth	2.0	1.9	2.6	1.2
	(1.9-2.1)	(1.8-2.0)	(2.3-3.0)	(0.8-1.7)
Nasopharynx	0.8	0.6	1.1	4.0
	(0.8-0.9)	(0.6-0.7)	(0.9-1.3)	(3.4-4.7)
Tonsil	2.3	2.3	2.7	0.9
	(2.2-2.4)	(2.2-2.4)	(2.4-3.1)	(0.6-1.3)
Oropharynx	0.7 (0.6-0.7)	0.6 (0.6-0.7)	1.3 (1.0-1.5)	~
Hypopharynx	1.4	1.3	2.8	1.0
	(1.4-1.5)	(1.2-1.4)	(2.5-3.2)	(0.7-1.5)
Other Oral Cavity and Pharynx	0.6 (0.5-0.6)	0.5 (0.5-0.6)	1.1 (0.9-1.4)	~
Digestive System	109.8	106.7	128.3	108.2
	(109.1-110.4)	(106.0-107.4)	(125.7-130.9)	(104.4-112.1)
Esophagus	8.5	8.2	12.1	3.9
	(8.3-8.6)	(8.0-8.4)	(11.4-12.9)	(3.2-4.7)



SMOKELESS TOBACCO





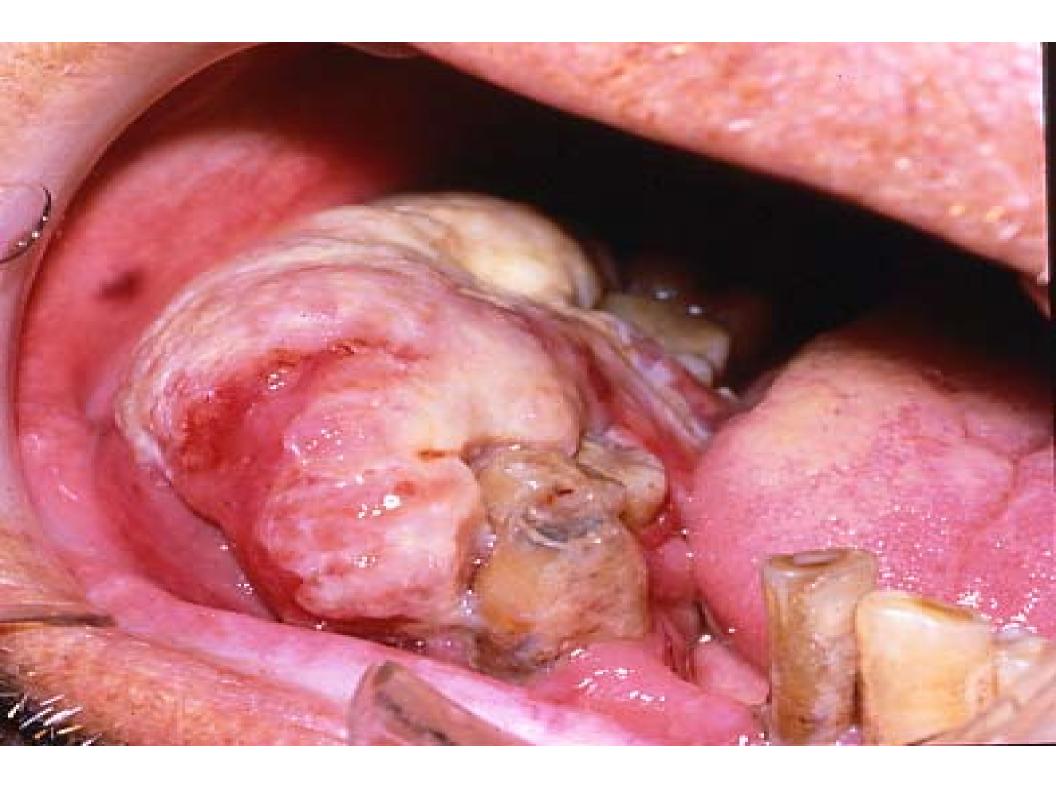


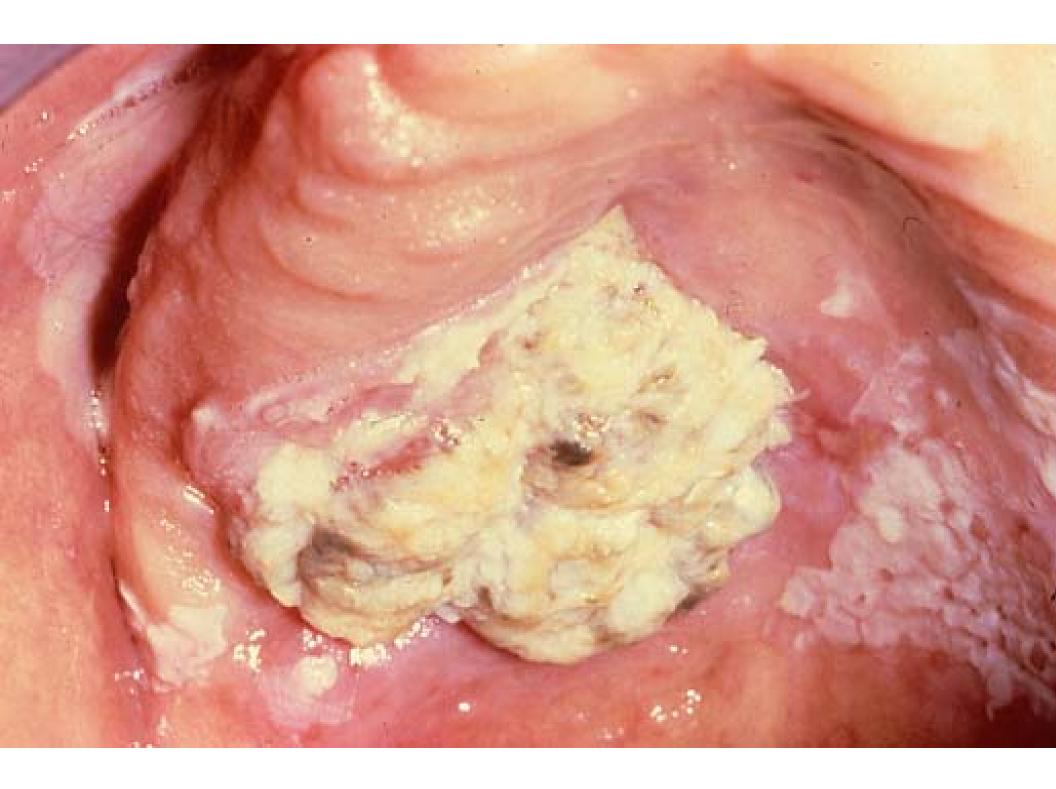










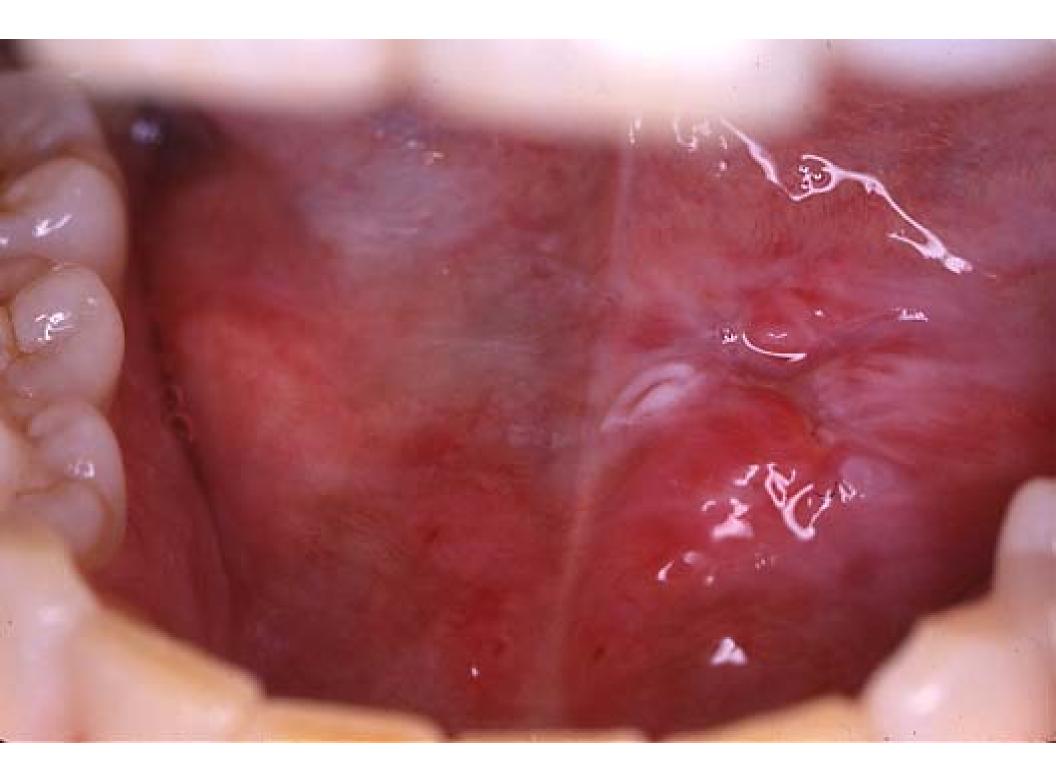






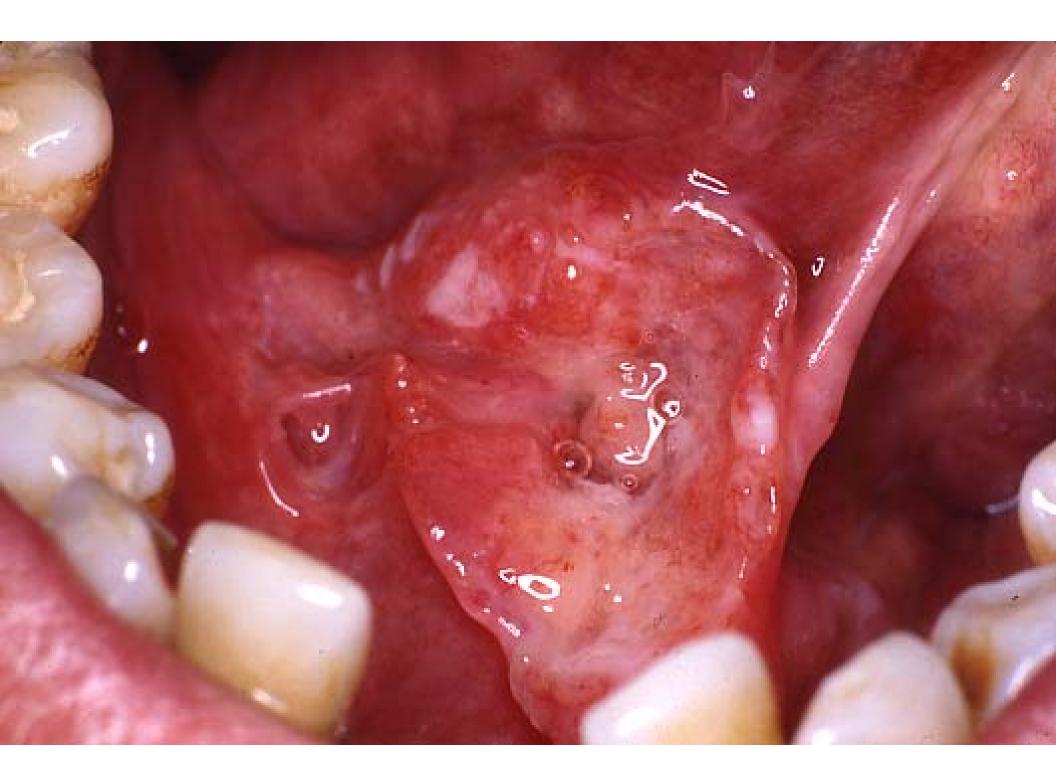


















At the time of diagnosis, pain or perception of a "lump" are the main reasons that patients present to the dentist for evaluation. However, many oral cancers are asymptomatic ulcers or nodules discovered during routine examinations.



Survival Time Following Diagnosis of Oral Cancer*

- About 50% survival at 5 years
- Almost 6 out of 10 whites survive 5 years
- Less than 4 out of 10 blacks survive 5 years

Adapted from National Cancer Institutes SEER Program

* Variable depending upon histologic type and stage of "cancer"



RISK FACTORS

- Age
- Gender
- Race
- Genetics/Heredity
- Tobacco and other habits
- Alcohol
- Immune system
- Viruses (HIV, HSV1, HSV2, HSV6, HSV8 [HSKS], EBV, HPV)



Oral lichen planus as a risk factor for oral/pharyngeal cancer

- Chronic, inflammatory disease of skin and mucosa
- Affects between 0.5 and 4% of population
- Oral lichen planus (about 25% of cases) follows a chronic course



Oral lichen planus as a risk factor for oral/pharyngeal cancer

- Malignant transformation is not common (0.4%-2% when LP lesions persist for more than 5 years)
- Most likely a "co-factor" and not a primary cause
- To date, no direct causal relationship established







Lichen Planus

- Often requires co-therapy with physician and dentist
- Treated with steroids (usually topical but may require systemic treatment as well)
- Serial biopsies taken at multiple sites are often indicated
- Patient education essential to long-term success



Screening questions to ask patients to establish risk for oropharyngeal cancer

- Do you use tobacco or alcohol? If so, how much and for how long?
- Has any direct member of your family (mother, father, grandparents, etc.) had mouth or throat cancer?
- Have you noticed any lumps or bumps in your mouth, throat or neck?
- Has there been any change in your voice including hoarseness or coarseness?



Screening questions to ask patients to establish risk for oropharyngeal cancer

- Has there been any change in your swallowing pattern?
- Do you have any difficulty swallowing?
- Do you have a feeling that something is stuck in your throat or do you feel that you need to frequently clear your throat because there is something irritating that area?
- Have you had any irritation or non-healing sore in your mouth or throat that has been in the same location for more than 2 weeks without completely healing?

Risk for oropharyngeal cancer

- Increases dramatically with increasing use of alcohol and tobacco
- If patient smokes two packs of cigarettes per day and consumes 12 whiskey equivalents per day, then risk for oropharyngeal cancer increases 100 times over that of a non-smoker, non-drinker.



If your patient answered "yes" to any of the previously listed questions, then your patient might be or is at greater risk for oropharyngeal cancer than is the general population.

Other factors increasing the risk for developing oral cancer

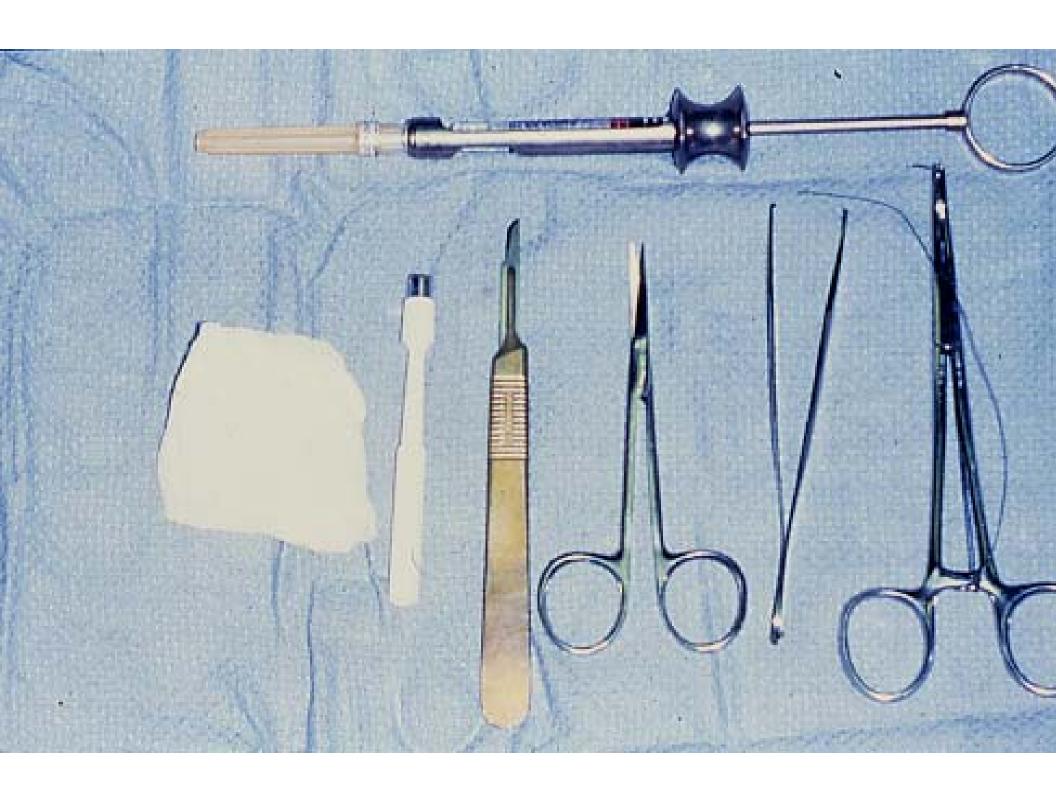
- Tobacco use continued after diagnosis of first cancer (approximately 1:3 chance of developing another primary oropharyngeal cancer)
- Cancer diagnosis at another site especially respiratory and upper digestive anatomic location
- Chronic candidiasis: although no firm data, endogenous nitrosamine production may play are role in transformation of "pre-cancer" to "cancer".

Early detection is the key to long term survival following diagnosis of oropharyngeal cancer. If you don't look, you will not find oropharyngeal cancer.

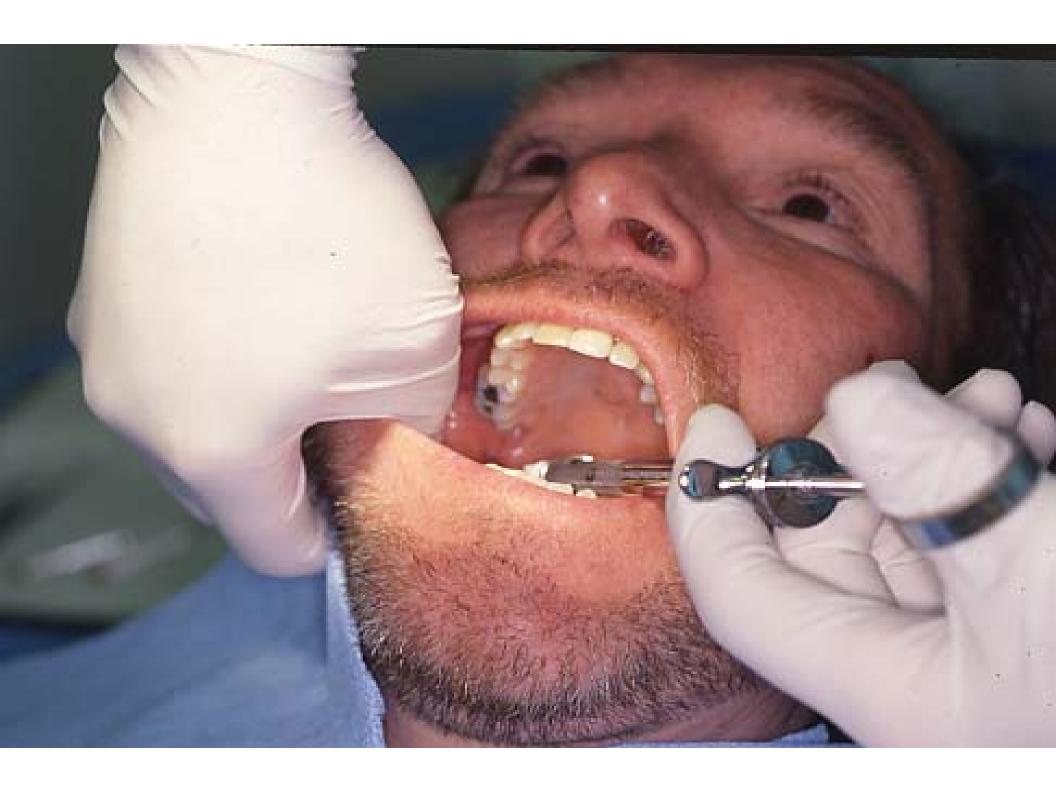


Remember that a biopsy is the only way to actually diagnose a cancer of the oropharyngeal tissues.



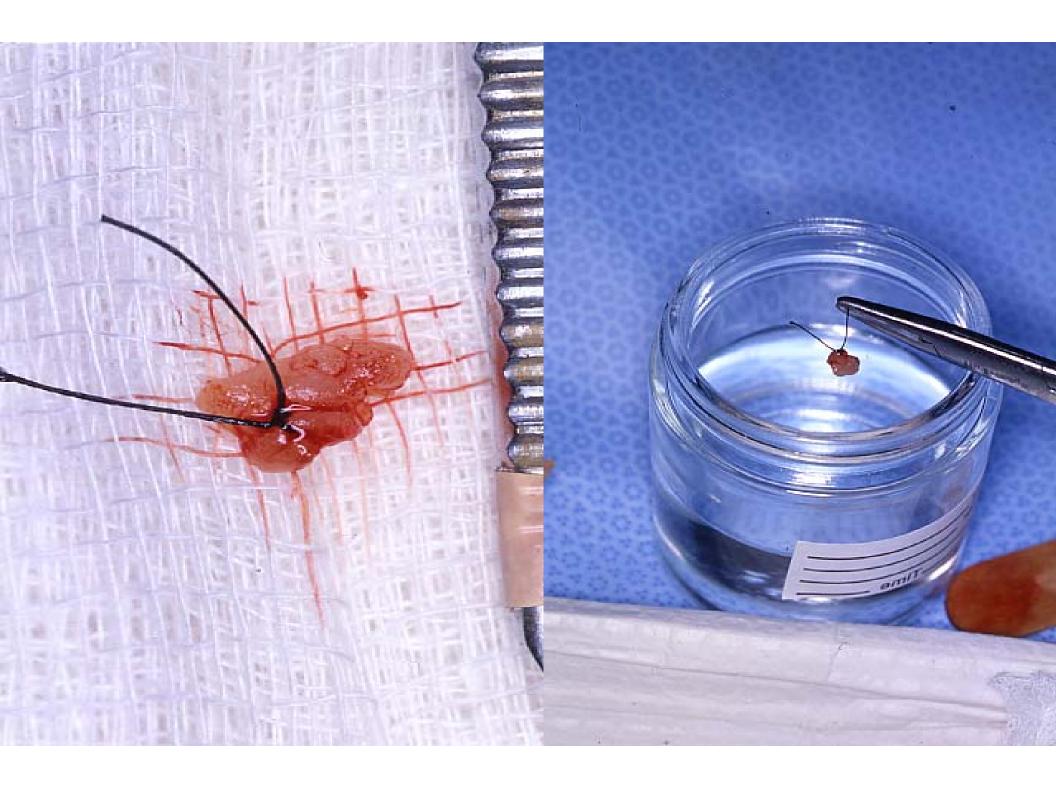












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Symptoms: None Pain Bleeding Currently Using Tobacco: Y or N		Location: □Floor of Mouth □Buccal Mucosa □Lateral Tongue		Duration of Lesion: □<6 months □ 6 months to 1 year □>1 year □Unknown					
Number of Pack Years: Pipe Use:Y orN		□Retromolar Trigone □Hard Palate	□Dorsal Tongue □Soft Palate	Previous Pathology Result of Lesion:		of Lesion:			
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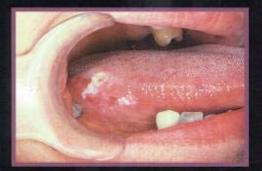
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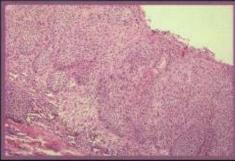
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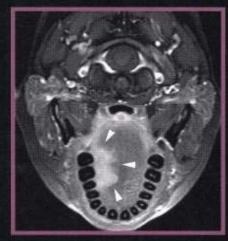


ORAL CANCER

FIFTH EDITION











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ORAL CANCER

FIFTH EDITION ATLAS OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY

Currently, almost 29,000 Americans will be diagnosed with oral or pharyngeal cancer. Mortality is high 50%—owing to late diagnosis and treatment. Early diagnosis of a lesion in the localized stage, together with adequate treatment, are still the most effective means to oral cancer control.

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Oral Cancer Information Sources

- American Dental Association (www.ada.org)
- Oral Cancer Foundation (www.oralcancerfoundation.org)
- US Government Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results (SEER)
- Centers for Disease Control (www.cdc.gov/OralHealth)



Points to Remember

- Oral and oropharyngeal cancer is not rare.
- There appears to be a genetic component in some form of oral and oropharyngeal cancers.
- Certain behaviors (use of alcohol, tobacco, etc.) places patients at much higher risk for cancer.
- "Asymptomatic" malignancies are often discovered during routine exams.



The body does not begin posterior to the anterior tonsilar pillar. Look around in your patient's mouth. If you see something you don't recognize or it looks suspicious, get a consultation from a competent general dentist or oral-maxillofacial surgeon!

