

# Oral Cancer: Three Minutes to Save a Life



One American dies *every hour* from oral cancer.

**Rates of oral cancer continue to increase while other cancers are declining.** Dental professionals know the importance of early oral abnormality detection, but many lack confidence in knowing exactly what to look for and how to discuss concerns with patients. Caring for patients undergoing cancer treatment creates additional uncertainty for dental clinicians.

In this interactive workshop, Kathryn Gilliam emphasizes the importance of early oral cancer detection and caring for cancer patients in the general dental office. Distinguish cancer risks including tobacco, alcohol, and the Human Papilloma Virus, and recognize those people at highest risk. Learn how to perform a spa-like, comprehensive examination when screening for head and neck abnormalities, setting your practice apart. Explore elegant and effective verbal skills to enhance patient education, increase acceptance, ease patient concerns, and maximize patient follow-up with specialists when needed. Identify various lesions and review the terminology needed to accurately describe them. Learn the benefits of fluorescence to enhance cancer screening. Review various protocols for the management of xerostomia, mucositis, nutritional deficiencies, and other common cancer treatment side effects. Being able to offer effective regimens and real comfort to patients will create immense professional and personal satisfaction.

**Suggested Audience:** Dentist, Hygienist, and Team  
**Suggested Format:** Full or Partial Day Workshops



## Course Objectives

- Acknowledge the importance of early oral cancer detection and develop a philosophy of care
- Highlight risk factors including alcohol, tobacco, and HPV
- Review available early detection devices
- Learn and practice extra- and intra-oral examination techniques
- Know how to explain the screening process and skillfully verbalize your findings with the patient
- Learn how to identify and utilize the correct terminology to accurately describe lesions
- Discuss cytology, biopsy, referral, and follow-up protocols
- Gain techniques for the management of the side effects and oral manifestations of chemotherapy and radiation

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