

Get it early. Get it all.™



If discovered early, oral cancer has an 80-90% cure rate.

Every hour of every day, one American dies of oral cancer. This deadly disease is the sixth leading cause of cancer deaths in America with no significant reduction in incidence over the past 30 years. Oral cancer is a growing problem and it is true that the majority of oral cancer victims smoke or use chewing tobacco, consume alcohol and are over age 40. But the group experiencing the highest growth rate does not fit this traditional "at risk" profile. More and more, this cancer is striking younger people who don't use tobacco or abuse alcohol. The cause appears to be one of two strains of the human papilloma virus that can be contracted during sexual intercourse and especially oral sex.

I continually look for technological advances to ensure that I am delivering the highest level in patient care. I recently evaluated a state-of-the-art medical technology, VELscope®, and found that using it, after our visual exam of the oral cavity, improves our ability to identify and evaluate suspicious areas at their earliest stages. This simple, painless, and non-invasive technology enables us to literally see beneath the surface to detect potentially dangerous growths. Early detection of pre-cancerous tissue can minimize or eliminate the potentially disfiguring effects of oral cancer and possibly even save your life.

Oral cancer is of particular concern because it is discovered in late stages about 70% of the time, and often that is too late. The VELscope® screening takes about two minutes as part of a regular hygiene check-up. For your health and peace of mind the VELscope® exam will be offered to all adults 18 and older annually (every six months is recommended if you smoke or chew tobacco).

This screening exam may not be covered by your insurance, however the mammogram and sigmoidoscopy initially met with the same challenges and are now routinely covered because of their proven benefits. The American Dental Association and the FDA recognize VELscope® as a highly effective tool for the identification of oral precancerous and cancerous lesions. My fee for this enhanced, separate screening is \$35.

**YES** I authorize Dr. Brian Hartwell's office to use VELscope® along with the visual and manual oral examination. I accept financial responsibility for this enhanced examination.

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**NO** I prefer Dr. Brian Hartwell's office not perform the VELscope® exam at this time.

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