

Early Detection of Oral Cancer

Gum Gardeners Dental Hygiene Study Club

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Course Description

Stage of disease at initial diagnosis continues to be the most significant factor affecting the survival rate among people with oral squamous cell carcinoma. This course will review the steps involved in performing an effective head and neck examination/oral cancer screening examination with emphasis on identification of soft tissue abnormalities that should raise suspicion for squamous cell carcinoma or a lesion with malignant potential (epithelial dysplasia). Indications for biopsy will be addressed. Clinical cases will be presented to illustrate the concepts discussed.

Course Objectives

At the completion of the course, participants should be able to:

- perform an effective head and neck examination/oral cancer screening examination.
- identify soft tissue abnormalities suspicious for squamous cell carcinoma or epithelial dysplasia.