

Oral Cancers and HPV

A Fact Sheet for Patients

HPV, or Human Papillomavirus, is the most common sexually transmitted virus. While in most cases the virus is harmless and goes away on its own, it is linked to many cancers, including oropharyngeal cancers.

14 million

new HPV infections annually, responsible for...

12% of cancers

worldwide, including oral cancer, cervical cancer, penile cancer, and more.

Oropharyngeal cancer diagnoses exceed 53,000 annually in the US, killing one person every hour. It is important that early detection, screenings, and preventive measures be used to increase survivability.

What are oropharyngeal cancers?

Cancers that occur in the mouth, specifically in the tonsils, back third of the tongue, side and back walls of the throat, and the soft palate.

- 1** Ask your dentist and physician about oral and pharyngeal cancer screenings at your next appointment.
- 2** Examine your mouth regularly and call a provider immediately if you notice any abnormalities.
- 3** Consider getting an HPV vaccine. [Click here for information about when to vaccinate.](#)

Additional resources

[HPV and Oropharyngeal Cancer - CDC](#)

[HPV Facts - Oral Cancer Foundation](#)

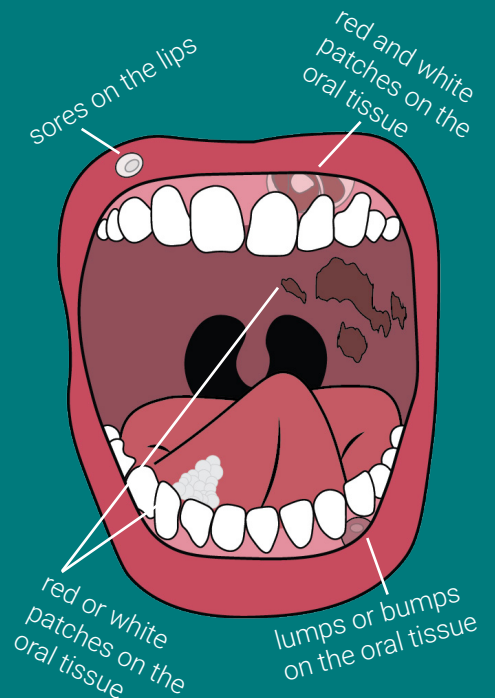
[Oral Cancer Risk Factors](#)

[Oral Cancer Screening - ADA](#)

[Oral Cancer Self Exam - AAOMS](#)



Tips for Self Assessment



When examining your mouth for oral cancer, be sure to check:

1. Lips
2. Gums
3. Sides of the tongue
4. Inner lining (sides) of the cheeks
5. Roof of the mouth
6. Floor of the mouth (under the tongue)
7. Back of the throat

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