

Oral Cancers and HPV

A Fact Sheet for Providers

HPV, or Human Papillomavirus, is the most common sexually transmitted virus. While in most patients 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.

1 Strengthen oral and pharyngeal cancer screening in all health sectors, especially in dental and primary care offices.

2 Screen patients for oropharyngeal cancers annually.

3 Educate patients about risk factors and at-home examination routines.

4 Encourage patients to receive an HPV vaccine. [Click here for information about when to vaccinate.](#)

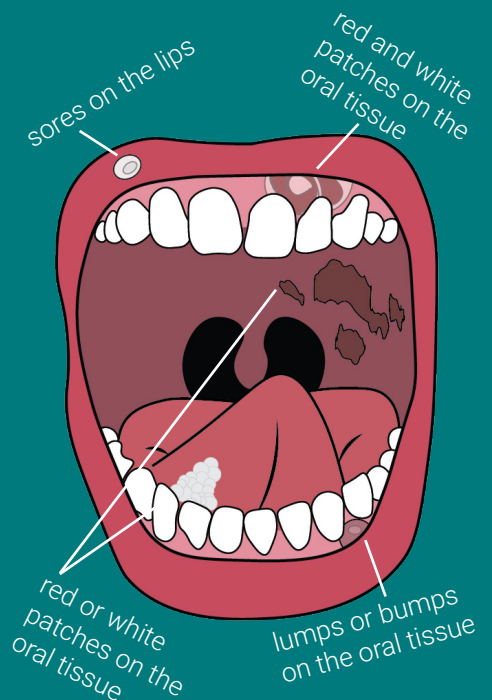
Additional resources

[HPV and Oropharyngeal Cancer - CDC](#)
[HPV Facts - Oral Cancer Foundation](#)
[Oral Cancer Screening - ADA](#)
[Oral Cancer Self Exam - AAOMS](#)



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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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