

Oral Cancer Screening

- Oral cancer is on the rise in the U.S. and is increasing faster than other cancers. Over 34,000 Americans will be *newly* diagnose this year; of those 34,000 only half will be alive in five years. Over 8,000 deaths- killing one person per hour.
- People who do NOT smoke or drink alcohol can also become oral cancer victims.
- The HPV virus has been found to be a cause of oral cancer.
- The increasing death rates are related to late discovery of the cancer at which point it has spread to other organs via lymph nodes.
- There are several types of oral cancer but about ninety-percent are squamous cell carcinomas.
- Early detection can significantly improve the mortality rates of a patient with oral cancer.
- Signs of cancer are more often found during routine oral exams but early changes can not always be visible under normal light and can go undetected for some time.

Our office is currently offering oral cancer screening with a Velscope- a painless simple procedure using a specialized fluorescent light, which takes only a few minutes. At this time many insurance companies do not cover this expense. If it is not covered, there will be a \$20.00 charge. We are recommending that all patients from the age of 18 yrs and older have this annual exam.

_____ *Yes, I do want to have the Velscope exam. I understand that there may be a \$20.00 charge that is not covered by my insurance company.*

_____ No, I am declining the Velscope exam.

Name – Signature

Date

Name – Print