



## *Health Alert*

### **Early Detection of Oral Cancer Can Save Your Life**

Oral cancer takes a deadly toll in America, and its occurrence is on the rise. According to recent statistics published by the American Cancer Society, the incidence and death rates for cancers overall has decreased, while the incidence of oral cancer has increased by 5.5% and the death rate has increased by 1.5%. Just consider these statistics:

- Every hour of every day, one American dies of oral cancer.
- The mortality rate associated with oral cancer has not improved significantly in the last 40 years.
- The death rate in the United States for oral cancer is higher than that of cervical cancer, Hodgkin's disease, cancer of the brain, liver, testes, kidney, or ovary.
- More than 30,000 Americans will receive an oral cancer diagnosis this year. In five years, only 57% will still be alive.
- 27% of oral cancer victims do not use tobacco or alcohol and have no other lifestyle risk factors.

The reason for many of these staggering statistics is that oral cancer is far too often discovered in late stage development. Early detection and diagnosis can make a tremendous difference in life expectancy; oral cancer is 90% curable when found in its early stages. Unfortunately, 70% of oral cancers are diagnosed in the late stages, III and IV, leading to a five-year survival rate of 57%.

To improve early detection of oral cancer, we offer ViziLite Plus, an oral lesion identification and marking system used as an adjunct to our conventional head and neck examination, as part of our comprehensive oral screening program.

**Statistics provided by:** [ViziLite Plus](#)