

# Dr. Little's Dental News

Presented by Jeffery Little, D.D.S.



## EARLY CANCER DETECTION

An important benefit of regular dental checkups is the potential to save lives by detecting oral cancer early. Each year in the United States about 49,700 new cases of oral cancer are diagnosed, accounting for around 3% of all cancer diagnoses. If cancer has not spread to surrounding tissues, the 5-year survival rates for oral cancer of the lips, tongue, and floor of the mouth range from 75%-93%. These percentages decline if the cancer has spread. Early signs of oral cancer include a white/red patch in the mouth, a sore or ulcer that does not heal or bleeds, tenderness/pain/lumps anywhere in the mouth or on the lips, and other symptoms that the hygienist and dentist are trained to detect.

As part of your healthcare team, we are concerned about all aspects of your health. If a medical condition comes to our attention during a dental exam, you can be sure we will discuss the issues with you as well as any other healthcare provider if you choose. We bring you our dental column as a way to inform our friends and neighbors here in Placerville of the many benefits of professional dentistry. For gentle dental care for the family, please call our office.

P.S. Factors that increase the risk of developing oral cancer include age (the average diagnosis is at 62 years old); tobacco and alcohol use; sun exposure that burns the lips; and gender (men are more than twice as likely to develop oral cancer as women).

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*Dr. Little provides quality family and cosmetic dentistry.*

*His office is located at 344 Placerville Dr., Suite 19, Placerville.*

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