

**The Third District Dental Society and the  
American Dental Association  
Would like you to know the**

**FACTS ABOUT ORAL CANCER**

- An estimated 30,200 new oral cancer cases will be diagnosed this year.
- Although the percentage of deaths has been decreasing since 1980, nearly 8,000 Americans die annually from oral cancer.
- Smoking in combination with heavy alcohol consumption (30+ drinks/week) is the primary risk factor for oral cancer.
- Oral Cancer is more likely to strike after the age of 40
- Additional risk factors that may be linked to oral cancer include: smokeless tobacco use; regular, prolonged exposure to the sun (lip cancer)
- Studies suggest that a diet high in fruits and vegetables may prevent the development of
  
- Oral cancer can affect any area of the oral cavity including the lips, gum tissues, cheek lining, tongue, and the hard or soft palate.
- Signs of oral cancer include:
  - a sore that bleeds easily or does not heal
  - a color change of the oral tissues
  - a lump, thickening, rough spot, crust or small eroded area
  - pain, tenderness, or numbness anywhere in the mouth or on the lips
  - difficulty swallowing, chewing, talking, or moving the jaw or tongue
  - a change in the way the teeth fit together



\* This Public Service Project is made possible by an educational grant from Oral Scan Laboratories, providers of Oral CDx.