Oral cancer is a subtype of head and neck cancer. It refers to any cancerous tissue growth located in the oral cavity. Oral cancer most commonly involves the tongue, but it may also occur on the floor of the mouth, cheek lining, gums, lips, or palate. Fortunately, research has led to advances in continuing the search for more effective approaches in treating this disease.

Risk Factors:

- Smoking and other tobacco use
- Chronic irritation (such as from rough teeth, dentures, or fillings)
- Taking medications that weaken the immune system (immunosuppressants)
- Heavy alcohol use
- Human papilloma virus (HPV) infection
- Poor dental and oral hygiene
- Men over 40 years old are more likely to develop oral cancer
Symptoms Include:
» Lump in the mouth, throat or the lip
» Bleeding, pain, or numbness
» Sore throat that does not go away
» Swelling of the jaw
» Pain in the ear
» White or red patch on the gums, tongue, or mouth
» Difficulty chewing or swallowing
» Change in the voice

Signs & Tests: Oral cancer may be discovered when the dentist performs a routine cleaning and examination.

Tests used to confirm oral cancer include:
» Gum biopsy
» Tongue biopsy
» X-rays and CT scans may be done to determine if the cancer has spread

“Doctors Hospital at Renaissance proudly meets the federal definition of a physician-owned hospital” (42 CFR § 489.3). The physicians on our outstanding oncology medical staff are not employees or agents of the hospital, but are independent contractors whose professional relationship is directly with the patient. “Cancer Center at Renaissance is A Division of Doctor Hospital at Renaissance, Ltd."