

Oral Cancer Screening Checklist

Check off as you perform each step. If findings are positive, take a photo.
Note onset, duration, number, size, texture, color, type.
If this is completed on every patient, liability will be greatly reduced.

Extra-oral

Say, “I’m doing an intra and extra oral exam which includes an oral cancer screening.”
Ask permission to touch face and neck.

Head: Check for symmetry

- Face and nose
- Ears and neck
- Hairline and scalp
- Lips: vermillion border

Neck: A positive node may be the only clinical sign of oropharyngeal cancer.

- Parotid
- SCM
- Submandibular
- Midline Larynx
- Thyroid
- Submental

Intra-oral

Tongue: anterior, posterior, lateral, dorsal, ventral, base.

Lips/depth of vestibule, Cheeks

Frenum, Floor of the mouth

Hard Palate, Soft Palate

Oropharynx, Tonsillar Pillar

TMJ Palpation

All computer management systems allow for setting up ‘clinical notes’ so an oral cancer screening protocol can be added to patient records.