Dr. Olya Zahrebelsky, DDS
General Dental Practice
An Introduction to Medical Billing in the General Dental Practice
Olya Zahrebelsky, DDS
Thursday, June 14 from 8:30 a.m - 11:30 a.m.

Tongue Tied: A Story NOT Silenced by Stage IV Oral Cancer
Eva Grayzel
Friday, June 15 from 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Six Step Oral Cancer Screening

Challenge your way of thinking at these two lectures

EXPANDED HORIZONS

Tongue Tied: A Story NOT Silenced by Stage IV Oral Cancer

Eva Grayzel - Oral cancer survivor

Eva Grayzel is quite the talker, which is remarkable, given that 13 years ago she could easily have died from tongue cancer. Today, she's on a mission to educate dentists, hygienists, students — anyone who will listen, really — about the disease. Grayzel endured chemo and painful radiation after doctors diagnosed her stage four tongue cancer more than once. She was one of the lucky ones — many tongue cancer survivors who survive are left deformed in the mouth, unable to speak or eat. Grayzel had a portion of her tongue removed, new tissue grafted on, and is able to talk — in part, because doctors managed to leave the tip of her tongue intact. And while she's healthy and in remission today, she says that mouth cancer screenings are still not emphasized enough in dental offices and schools around the country. "I see the need," she says. "What's lacking in dentistry is that most dentists are afraid to use the words oral cancer because they are afraid to scare their patients. But they're doing a disservice to them — just look at my story — I have an Ivy League education, my husband is a physician, I had a sore on my tongue that wasn't going away and nobody knew what it was. I never heard the words oral cancer. I never knew the disease existed. When I had a biopsy the tissue came back cancer. I thought they called the wrong patient. I thought to myself "what on earth could they be looking for in a biopsy?" I had heard the words oral cancer. I had eaten kale and green beans and steamed fish, why was it happening to me? So I went to a specialist and they found a second cancer on the opposite side of my mouth."

The second time Grayzel got a sore, she was treated for trauma for nine months when her dentist looked at her old pathology and theorized that either she was growing at her tongue or her teeth were growing into her tongue. She was acne and after tongue surgery, she could eat, but she had not eaten a piece of meat since the surgery. "I was okay," she said. "I could eat solid food and I could drink coffee."

Grayzel explains the six steps to a proper oral cancer screening (see below) in this expanded horizon lecture. The tools to communicate better with their patients, and to ensure that they're doing a proper cancer screening every visit. "We can save lives."