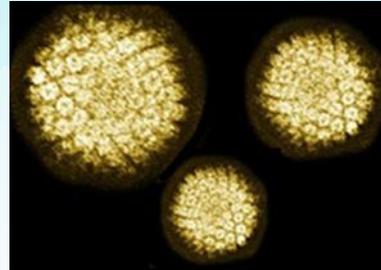


Oral Cancer & Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)

Single
Point
Lesson

HPV is the leading cause of oropharyngeal cancers; primarily the tonsils, tonsillar crypt, the base of the tongue, throat and a very small number of front of the mouth, oral cavity cancers. HPV16 is the version most responsible, and can affect both males and females. HPV oral and oropharyngeal cancers are harder to discover than tobacco related cancers because the symptoms are not always obvious to the individual who is developing the disease, or to professionals that are looking for it. They can be very subtle and painless.

- There are nearly 200 different strains of HPV, most of which are harmless. However, 9 are known to cause cancers.
- You can have HPV without ever knowing it because the virus often produces no signs or symptoms that you will notice, and the immune response to clear it is not a process that you will be aware of.



In 2014 there were 11,400 new cases of head & neck cancer in the UK.

31 cases are diagnosed every day. Incidence rates of oral cancer are projected to rise by 33% in the UK (2014-2035).

Did you know: early diagnosis of oral cancer can give 90% chance of survival.

Oral Cancer: Signs & Symptoms

- An ulcer or sore that does not heal within 2-3 weeks
- A red, white, or black discoloration on the soft tissues in the mouth.
- Difficult or painful swallowing. A sensation that things are sticking in the throat when swallowing.
- A swollen but painless tonsil. When looking in the mouth, tonsils on both sides should be symmetrical in size.
- Pain when chewing.
- A persistent sore throat or hoarse voice.
- A swelling or lump in the mouth.
- A painless lump felt on the outside of the neck, which has been there for at least two weeks.
- A numb feeling in the mouth or lips.
- Constant coughing.
- Ear pain without evidence of local abnormalities.

91% of oral cancers in the UK are linked to lifestyle factors.

Sharp rates of incidence rates of oral pharynx cancer are linked to HPV; affecting the younger adult population. Between 2008-2010 53% increase in under 65 yrs.



“Brief intervention, referral and/or signpost”. “Public health is everyone’s business”.



Please contact the Infection Control Team if you require any additional advice/support on 01744 457314/ 01744 457312