



Oral Abnormality Screening Consent Form

We are very concerned about oral cancer and conduct screening examinations on every patient. The incidence of oral cancer continues to rise in the USA. The American Cancer Society indicates that in 2010, they expect a remarkable 11% increase in this deadly disease. Alarming, 25% of the new oral cancer cases are people that do not have any of the traditional lifestyle risk factors, such as age and tobacco and alcohol use.

Traditionally, dentists have done oral cancer screening with the naked eye, but recently a new technology, the VELscope has received FDA approval. The VELscope (for visually Enhanced Lesion Scope) will help us pinpoint and identify suspicious tissue at earlier stages before they may become life-threatening concerns.

VELscope, similar to other early detection procedures like colonoscopy, mammography, PAP smear and PSA exam, is a painless, non-invasive blue light that is shined into the patient's mouth. The images are viewed through the back of the VELscope handpiece and will allow/facilitate the discovery of abnormalities at an earlier stage. Before an exam, the room is darkened and much like "desert storm night vision technology" the clinician can see changes in tissue that may not be visible to the eye. These detected changes can range from something minor to something of greater concern that may require further examination and follow-up.

The VELscope testing is an addition to our traditional visual oral cancer screening and will only add a few minutes to the entire exam. The normal fee for this procedure is \$79, however, the Doctor feels so strongly that every patient has this examination at least once a year our charge for this enhanced examination is only \$35. The VELscope exam may or may not be covered by dental insurances. As part of our standard of care and because we care about you, we strongly recommend that you choose this additional screening procedure.

Once again, we believe as our patient population gets older and the prevalence of HPV and oral cancer increases, that this breakthrough technology is very important to enhance the quality of care we can offer to you.

Please sign the area below to accept the financial responsibility for this procedure.

YES, I authorize the office to perform the VELscope examination.

Print Name _____

Signature _____ **Date** _____