

American Cancer Society

According to a review article highlighted on the American Cancer Society website and published in *CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians* (July/August issue), oral cancer survival rates have experienced little change over the past 30 years. Despite the use of oral cancer screening methods, often these cancers are not detected until the later stages. Approximately 28 900 people will be stricken with oral or pharyngeal cancer and about 7400 will succumb to the disease. (Neville and Day).

A wealth of information about oral cancer and other forms of this deadly disease can be accessed through the website for the American Cancer Society at <http://www.cancer.org>. This website provides excellent resources and also has information available in Spanish and some Asian languages.

The home page for the website offers many interesting selections. These include sections on Patients, Families and Friends; Supporters; Survivors; Health Information Seekers; and Professionals. Under each of these sections are various links to such areas as facts, figures, treatment, research, media and networking. There is also an area to choose a cancer topic to search.

The area for *Professionals* is the most helpful section for practicing dental hygienists and educators. This section includes a link to the 2005 cancer statistics which highlight cancer occurrence, survival rates, screening tests and behaviours that influence cancer risks. Also provided are statistics for previous years and cancer data by US states. The most recent graphs and charts as well as a PowerPoint presentation on the 2005 cancer statistics are available for download and use.

One sidebar on the website contains an interactive help section which includes areas such as: (1) Great American Health Check; (2) Use Treatment Decision Tools; (3) Explore Treatment Guidelines; (4) Find Treatment Centers; and (5) Find a Clinical Trial. These sections require that you create a login so as to utilize the information.

The website also contains a message board and a News

Center where such items as Medical Updates, News You Can Use and Stories of Hope are located. There is a section in which you can type in your zip code and find news in your community about cancer topics, resources and activities. A link to the American Cancer Society's International Program is provided on the homepage. The international program focuses on developing and collaborating with cancer-related organizations throughout the world. It can be accessed at <http://international@cancer.org>. Under this link are sections including: A Case for Global Action, American Cancer Society University, International Partners Program, International Grants Program, International Relay for Life, International Tobacco Control, 2006 International Cancer and Tobacco Control Conferences, and Regional Initiatives.

A section on getting involved is located on the right-hand side of the homepage. This section includes special link to Relay for Life, and also such areas as legislative action, wills and trusts, donations, and a gift shop. In addition, this side of the page has a section on news for this month. It features current and relative cancer-related articles.

This website is very user friendly and provides excellent resource information for the cancer patient, survivor, family member, professional care giver and practicing dental hygienist. Dental hygiene educators will find this site provides current and well-organized data that can be useful in teaching students about cancer and providing dental hygiene treatment for those patients suffering from the disease.

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