

The Oral Cancer Foundation

Approximately, 100 people in the United States will be diagnosed with oral cancer every day. One person dies from oral cancer each hour (<http://www.oralcancerfoundation.org/>). The website for the Oral Cancer Foundation is located at <http://www.oralcancerfoundation.org> and is considered a national public service, non-profit organization. Its aim is to help save lives and promote prevention through research, advocacy, education and support activities. The site is designed to be useful to both professionals and consumers. It contains volumes of information concerning oral cancer topics such as rates of occurrence, signs and symptoms, risk factors, treatments and research, just to name a few. The website is designed with a Google Gadget to translate it into just about any language.

The home page gives basic critical information about oral cancer and provides the stimulation to further delve into the issues surrounding oral cancer. The site also provides a means of joining the foundation or contributing to the fight against oral cancer through private and corporate donations. The left side of the home page contains the following subsections: *Survivor/Patient Forum*, *Donations*, *Memberships*, *Corporate Partners*, *Oral Cancer in the News*, *Oral Cancer Facts*, *Diagnosis*, *Treatment*, *Restoration/Rehabilitation*, *Dental Issues*, *Emotional Aspects*, *OCF in the News*, *Events*, *The Tobacco Connection*, *The HPV Connection*, *People*, *Store*, *Products*, *Other Resources*, *Grants/Jobs*, *Research/Clinical Trials*, *Multimedia*, *Volunteer to Help*, *Media Press Kit*, *About Us* and *Newsletter*. The areas of *Donations*, *Memberships*, *Corporate Partners*, *Events*, *Store*, *Products*, *Volunteer to Help*, *Media Press Kit* and *About Us* are fairly self explanatory as to their content. All other sections will be reviewed for their content.

The *Survivor/Patient Forum* is a section that can be accessed by victims of oral cancer or the general public to view frequently asked questions, and also comments and messages from survivors and current patients with oral cancer. The new user can register to become a part of the Oral Cancer Support Forum through this portal. The section on *Oral Cancer in the News* gives the user the ability to scan many new and scientific articles on oral cancer. The *Oral Cancer*

Facts section gives the rates of occurrence and many statistics about oral cancer. It also describes risk factors and links to government reports, fact and figures. The *Diagnosis and Treatment* sections provide information on screening protocols, treatment options and an image gallery of oral cancers. The section on *Restoration/Rehabilitation* reviews surgical and prosthetic options as well as speech and eating issues and use of dental implants.

The *Dental Issues* section provides information on the role of dental professions in screening, detection, treatment and oral care for the patient. In addition, there are extensive sections on dental and oral complications, adjunctive screening devices, proper examination techniques and pretreatment dental issues. The *Emotional Aspects* links us to dealing with the emotional side of cancer and how patients try to cope with this illness as well as dealing with family and friends. Both the sections on *OCF in the News* and *Events* lead us to current and past oral cancer-related news and happenings.

The sections on *The Tobacco Connection* and *The HPV Connection* provide pertinent information on the causes and contributing factors to oral cancer. Demographics and related multimedia are included in these sections. The *People* section provides the website user with a historical perspective on oral cancer victims as well as a discussion of famous people who have had the disease.

The *Other Resources* section gives information on things, such as insurance, financial assistance, organization, treatment facilities, publications, nutritional information, products and many other useful areas for individual caregivers, professionals and the consumer. The sections on *Grants/Jobs* and *Research/Clinical Trials* provide some of the latest information about opportunities in the field of oral cancer research. The section on *Multimedia* gives examples of television public service announcements that were created as a part of the tobacco lawsuit settlement with many states. This money was used to fund educational campaigns against tobacco use.

The Oral Cancer Foundation website provides a great amount of information that can be useful to the patient, the caregiver and the professional. The image gallery and public service announcements can be very helpful in educational presentations. In addition, this website provides a good service to the victims of oral cancer in its patient forum. The website is easily navigated and provides technical as well as practical information.

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