

# The role of dental surgery in treating oral cancer.

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## Introduction

Oral cancer is a type of cancer that develops in the tissues of the mouth, including the lips, tongue, gums, and roof or floor of the mouth. It can also develop in the throat or pharynx. According to the American Cancer Society, more than 54,000 new cases of oral cancer are diagnosed each year in the United States alone [1].

Dental surgery plays a critical role in the management of oral cancer. It can help remove cancerous or precancerous cells, relieve symptoms, and improve the patient's overall quality of life. Some common dental surgeries used in the treatment of oral cancer include: Surgery to remove the tumor is one of the most common treatments for oral cancer. The goal of the surgery is to remove the cancerous tissue while preserving as much healthy tissue as possible. Depending on the location and size of the tumor, different surgical approaches may be used [2].

## Benefits

Dental surgery plays a critical role in the treatment of oral cancer. Some of the benefits of dental surgery in oral cancer treatment include:

Regular dental check-ups can help detect oral cancer in its early stages, when it is most treatable. This can help improve the patient's prognosis and increase their chances of survival.

Dental surgery can help remove cancerous or precancerous tissue from the mouth, which can help prevent the cancer from spreading to other areas of the body.

Dental surgery can also help relieve symptoms associated with oral cancer, such as pain, difficulty eating, and difficulty speaking [3].

## Diagnosis

The first step in treating oral cancer is diagnosis. Dentists and oral surgeons play a critical role in detecting oral cancer early, often during routine dental exams. If a suspicious lesion is found, a biopsy may be performed to confirm the diagnosis. A biopsy involves removing a small piece of tissue from the lesion and examining it under a microscope to determine if cancer cells are present [4].

If oral cancer is detected in its early stages, surgery may be the primary treatment option. The goal of surgery is to remove the cancerous tissue while preserving as much of the healthy tissue as possible. The type of surgery will depend on the location

and extent of the cancer. Some common procedures include: After surgery to remove oral cancer, reconstructive surgery may be necessary to restore the appearance and function of the mouth and throat. Reconstructive surgery may involve tissue grafts, dental implants, or other procedures to rebuild the jaw or other structures that were affected by the cancer. If oral cancer has progressed to an advanced stage, surgery may be used in combination with other treatments, such as radiation or chemotherapy. In some cases, surgery may be used to remove tumors that are blocking the airway or causing other complications.

After dental surgery for oral cancer, it is important to follow the post-surgical care instructions provided by your dental team. This may include taking medications, such as painkillers or antibiotics, and avoiding certain foods or activities while you heal. Regular follow-up appointments with your dentist or oral surgeon are also important to monitor your progress and detect any signs of recurrence [5].

## Conclusion

Dental surgery plays a critical role in the diagnosis and treatment of oral cancer. Early detection and treatment is key to improving outcomes for patients with oral cancer. If you have any concerns about oral cancer or notice any changes in your mouth or throat, contact your dentist or oral surgeon right away. They can provide a thorough examination and recommend the appropriate course of treatment. By working together, we can help prevent and treat oral cancer and improve the overall health and well-being of our patients.

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