



## *Oral Pathology*

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The inside of the mouth is normally lined with a special type of skin (mucosa) that is smooth and coral pink in color. Any alteration in this appearance could be a warning sign for a pathological process. Many types of abnormal growth can occur. The vast majority of these oral lesions are benign. Some lesions are more serious and are malignant. The only way to know for sure is to obtain a specimen through a biopsy. The following can be signs at the beginning of a pathologic process or cancerous growth

- Reddish or whitish patches in the mouth
- A sore that fails to heal and bleeds easily
- A lump or thickening on the skin lining the inside of the mouth
- Chronic sore throat or hoarseness
- Difficulty in chewing or swallowing

These changes can be detected on the lips, cheeks, palate and gum tissue around the teeth, tongue, face and neck. Pain does not always occur with oral pathology. Pain is not often associated with oral cancer.

We would recommend performing self-examination monthly and remember that your mouth is one of your body's most important warning systems. Do not ignore suspicious lumps or sores. Please contact us so we may help.