

Discussing Dysplasia

Presenter: Kevin D. Huff, DDS, MAGD

Presentation format: Evening Dinner Discussion for Study Clubs (1 hour)

Intended Audience: Dentists, Dental Hygienists, Dental Assistants

Course Synopsis and Objectives:

The technologies of today and others that are still being developed are increasingly giving practitioners the ability to detect and diagnose potentially malignant conditions at the earliest stages. These sophisticated but simple to use diagnostic modalities range from specialized non-invasive direct optical fluorescence visualization technologies, like the VELscope®, to easy to use minimally invasive tissue collection techniques designed for use by general practitioners. Early stage lesions are difficult to recognize with the human eye under normal examination conditions. These new technologies will make early diagnosis easier, before lesions are even visible to the naked eye, and may become the new standard of care. There is an abundance of published research that makes one question the ethics of not being proactive in oral disease detection as early as possible, yet this topic remains controversial.

The intention of this course is to discuss the recent perspectives about oral cancer early detection technologies, as they have been outlined in several columns published in *Dental Economics*, *Dentistry Today*, and *General Dentistry* in an informal interactive venue. Course participants are encouraged to come with questions and concerns for discussion with the group. Although resource information will be available, this is not intended to thoroughly discuss all of the early detection technologies available, as they would be in a structured lecture such as *Dyspelling Dysplasia*.

Upon the completion of this course, attendees should be able to:

- Understand current perspectives about oral cancer
- Recognize currently available early adjunctive screening systems
- Differentiate between visual screening techniques and tissue collection techniques
- Conceptually understand the differences between various tools and techniques for oral cancer and potentially malignant disease