

## Signs and Symptoms of Oral Cancer

### Early

- A sore in the mouth that does not heal (most common symptom)
- A persistent white or red patch on the gums, tongue, tonsil, or lining of the mouth

### Late

- Pain in the mouth that does not go away
- A persistent lump or thickening in the cheek
- A sore throat or a feeling that something is caught in the throat
- Difficulty chewing or swallowing
- Difficulty moving the jaw or tongue
- Numbness of the tongue or other area of the mouth
- Swelling of the jaw that causes dentures to fit poorly or become uncomfortable
- Loosening of the teeth or pain around the teeth or jaw
- Voice changes
- A lump or mass in the neck
- Weight loss
- Persistent bad breath

Source: American Cancer Society, 2010

[http://www.cancer.org/docroot/CRI/content/CRI\\_2\\_4\\_3X\\_How\\_is\\_oral\\_cavity\\_and\\_oropharyngeal\\_cancer\\_diagnosed\\_60.asp](http://www.cancer.org/docroot/CRI/content/CRI_2_4_3X_How_is_oral_cavity_and_oropharyngeal_cancer_diagnosed_60.asp)