



SmarTeeth

Happy New Year! 2008

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Our Practice Philosophy

We are here to help you make good dental decisions. We endeavor to do this by getting to know you and what your desires are for your dental health. We are ready to share, with you, all the information available about your dental care and to provide you with the highest quality treatment for your dental needs.

Oral and Skin Cancer

We got a bit of a scare last November when Beth was diagnosed with a Melanoma, the most serious type of skin cancer. She went to the dermatologist because she thought that a freckle on the top of her thigh looked a little “funny”. The doctor didn’t think much of it, but decided to go ahead and do a biopsy just to make sure. Two weeks later, Beth had a three inch long scar where a quarter sized amount of tissue had been removed to make sure that the melanoma had not spread too far. Thankfully, the melanoma had not made it any further and subsequent biopsies have all come back negative.



Beth’s Leg After

This scare made us think of the patients Dr. McCrea has referred to have biopsies done over the years. Most of them have come back as non- cancerous and easily managed. A few, sadly, have been more serious cancers that have required extensive treatment. The alarming thing is that the benign and malignant lesions looked very similar to each other.



Melanoma

Part of our new patient exam is an oral cancer screening. Janelli and Marlene also perform screenings at your check-up and cleaning appointments.

They are mostly visual, but also involve manipulating your lips, tongue, and cheeks to feel for lumps and bumps. However, **you know yourself better than anyone else.**

One of the reasons Beth’s diagnosis was not more grave, is that she noticed something was different about that freckle early on and took action. Most of you look at yourselves in the mirror every day. (The ones who don’t know who they are.) You are usually the first one to notice something out of the ordinary about yourself. Yet another good reason to floss is that you can get a really good look around the inside your mouth while you’re doing it. If you think something doesn’t look normal, come in and have Dr. McCrea take a look.

The most common risk factors for oral and skin cancer are family history, using tobacco products, sun exposure, and drinking excessive amounts of alcohol. However, a good number of people without any known risk factors are diagnosed with skin and oral cancer every year. Prevention and early detection are crucial.



Squamous Carcinoma

Limit your alcohol consumption, try to quit using tobacco, do use sunscreen

(especially on your lips), and alert your physician or Dr. McCrea to any changes you notice yourself. Biopsies are not a lot of fun, but

It is much better to be safe than sorry.

Care Credit

We are still offering Care Credit as a great way to finance your dental needs. Care Credit can help you spread payments out over a period of time without interest. Many of our patients have found this to be very helpful. Ask Sue for details or apply online at www.carecredit.com.

Thank you for Your Referral

We really like our patients. It's disappointing that we only get to see most of you two or three times a year. So it's nice to have our patients' friends, co-workers, and family members come in to see us and give us updates (not gossip of course). Appointments are usually available within a week or two. If you know someone with a toothache though, we will try to get them in as soon as possible. Make sure everyone lets us know who sent them so we can thank you the next time you come in.



