



CALIFORNIA
DENTAL ASSISTANTS
ASSOCIATION

Name of Course: *Living with the Aftermath of Oral Cancer Treatment*



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Speaker Bio

Kristy S. Borquez became a member of the SFVDAS in 1974, while still in dental assisting school. Under the mentorship of her instructor and future teaching colleague, Sally Ingram, she learned of the need to become a part of her professional organization. Her first position was as editor for SFVDAS and she has held this position for 42 consecutive years. She is a past president of the ADAA, CDAA and SFVDAS, and currently she serves as Director, Treasurer and Editor of the SFVDAS.

Kristy taught RDA review courses for 25 years, as well as Infection Control classes. She started working for Northridge Dental Group 2 weeks after graduating from Dental Assisting school. She began her career as a chairside assistant and received her RDA license in 1976 and RDAEF in 1992. She recently retired after 50 years of full-time work but continues working for NDG remotely on a part-time basis.

Course Description:

The American Cancer Society's most recent statistics for oral cavity and oropharyngeal cancers in the United States for 2022 are: 1) About 54,000 people will get oral cavity or oropharyngeal cancer; 2) An estimated 11,230 people will die of these cancers.

Oral cavity and oropharyngeal cancers occur most often in the following sites: 1) The tongue; 2) The tonsils and oropharynx; 3) The gums, floor of the mouth, and other parts of the mouth. The rest are found in the lips, the minor salivary glands (which often occur in the roof of the mouth), and other sites. The average age of most people diagnosed with these cancers is 62, but they can occur in young people. They are rare in children, but a little more than 20% occur in patients younger than 55. When patients newly diagnosed with oral and oropharyngeal cancers are carefully examined, a small portion will have another cancer in a nearby area such as the larynx (voice box), the esophagus (the tube that carries food from the throat to the stomach), or the lung. Some who are cured of oral or oropharyngeal cancer will develop another cancer later in the lung, mouth, throat, or other nearby areas.



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Not all cases of oral cavity (mouth) and oropharyngeal (middle throat) cancer can be prevented, but the risk of developing these cancers can be greatly reduced if you take steps to avoid certain risk factors. For this reason, patients with oral and oropharyngeal cancer will need to have follow-up exams for the rest of their lives. They also need to avoid using tobacco and alcohol, which increase the risk for these second cancers.

The subject of Oral Cancer is close to Kristy's heart. After her mother was diagnosed with oral cancer in 2000, she learned a great deal about treatment for the disease and the affects it can have on those being treated. She will be sharing the journey her mom experienced for 16 years.

Educational Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, participants will be:

- Review current statistics for oral cancer
- Identify which cancers are considered Oral Cancer
- Identify risk Factors for Oral Cancer
- Learn about the patient and her struggles with the effects of Oral Cancer treatment