

# Oral Cancer Screening: Let your fingers do the talking

## Lesion Descriptor Guide\*

### Anatomic Locations

**HEAD:** scalp, eye, ear, nose, cheek, chin, neck; R or L

**NECK:** midline, right, left, near certain anatomic structure

**LIP:** Max, mand, Commisure, vermillion border, labial mucosa; R or L

**BUCCAL MUCOSA:** parotid papilla, mucobuccal fold; near tooth #

**GINGIVA:** free, attached; near tooth #

**TONGUE:** anterior 1/3, middle 1/3, posterior 1/3; dorsal, ventral, right lateral, left lateral

**FLOOR OF MOUTH:** lingual frenum, sublingual folds, sublingual caruncle; near tooth #

**PALATE:** hard, soft, midline, incisive papilla; R or L

**OROPHARYNX:** pillars, midline, uvula

**Border** (may not be necessary when documenting elevated lesions)

**WELL-DEMARCATED (regular shape):** easy to see where lesion begins and ends



**POORLY-DEMARCATED irregular shape:** difficult to see where lesion begins and ends



### Color change/Configuration

**COLOR:** red, white, red and white, blue, yellow, brown, black

**LESION PATTERN:** single lesion or multiple lesions (discrete, grouped, confluent, linear)

### Diameter/Dimension

**IF OBLONG OR IRREGULAR SHAPE:** length and width

**IF CIRCULAR OR ROUND SHAPE:** diameter (measurement of a line running from one side of a circle through the center to the other side)

### Type

#### Non palpable Flat Lesions

**Macule:** flat discolored spot, < 1 cm



**Patch:** flat discolored spot, > 1 cm



## Palpable Elevated Solid Masses

**Papule:** solid raised lesion, < 1 cm diameter



**Nodule:** marble-like lesion >1 cm diameter



**Plaque:** superficial raised lesion, > 1 cm diameter



**Wheal:** localized area of skin edema



Fig. 66.3. Immediate (Type I) hypersensitivity: facial wheal.  
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## Fluid-Filled Lesions

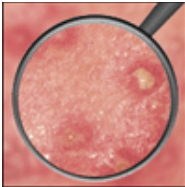
**Vesicle:** small blister with clear fluid, < 1 cm diameter



**Bulla:** larger blister with fluid, > 1 cm diameter



**Pustule:** small raised pus filled lesion



## Loss of Skin or Mucosal Surface

**Ulcer:** craterlike lesion with loss of top layer of skin/mucosa



**Fissure:** linear crack



## **History**

**Known or unknown:** if patient is aware of lesion

1. has it been evaluated prior to today/diagnosis
2. when was it first noticed
3. is it recurring and previous date of occurrence
4. has it changed in size or shape

**Duration:** how long has it been present

**Symptoms and Triggers:** pain, itching, etc and what causes the symptom to occur