



## Detecting Oral Cancer: *BrushTest<sup>®</sup> Biopsy*

**QUALITY PREVENTIVE CARE IS AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT TO ANY DENTAL PLAN, WHICH IS WHY RENAISSANCE DENTAL COVERS THE BRUSHTEST<sup>®</sup>, AN ORAL BRUSH BIOPSY.**

### Oral Cancer: Alarming Facts<sup>1</sup>

- ✦ Oral cancer is the sixth most common cancer worldwide
- ✦ One of the most expensive cancers to treat and can leave patients extremely disabled
- ✦ Seventy-five percent of oral cancer cases are related to lifestyle choices
- ✦ Only fifty percent will survive an oral cancer diagnosis after five years

### Built-In Benefits: Oral Cancer Screening

Dental professionals are in a unique position to detect oral cancer because they routinely perform thorough examinations of the mouth. During this examination, a dentist may see red or white spots in their patients' mouths. Although most of these spots are harmless, some are not. If a dentist determines that the tissue needs to be tested, a BrushTest<sup>®</sup> can be performed in the dental office using a kit developed by a company called CDx Laboratories. The dentist then sends the sample to CDx Laboratories for computer-assisted analysis.

The OralCDx software was adapted from a program designed for the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), or "Star Wars" system.<sup>2</sup> With this technology, CDx Laboratories can spot a precancerous or cancerous cell even if it is partially obscured by other cells, much

like the SDI system was intended to distinguish decoys from real missiles. Pathologists use this technology in conjunction with a microscopic evaluation before giving a full report to the dentist.

Renaissance pays the approved percentage of the fee for both the BrushTest<sup>®</sup> procedure and the laboratory analysis for covered patients.

### Dentists Can Detect the Warning Signs:

Dentists are disease detectives, looking out for warning signs of oral cancer and other diseases. Examinations can uncover:<sup>3</sup>

- ✦ Development of new lumps, particularly that have increased in size
- ✦ Sores that don't heal within two weeks
- ✦ Changes in the appearance of soft tissue
- ✦ Persistent bleeding from the throat or mouth
- ✦ Difficulty swallowing

### For More Information:

- ✦ Visit our website at **RenaissanceFamily.com** for more information on the connection between oral health and overall health.
- ✦ Call Renaissance's Customer Service department at **888-358-9484**.

1) Sources: American Cancer Society, Cancer Statistics 2009 Presentation, <http://www.cancer.org>, accessed March 2010; American Cancer Society, Cancer Facts & Figures 2009, Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2009. 2) Huet, Jennifer. "Applied Orally, Missile Defense Technology May Work." The Washington Post 24 Apr. 2001 <<https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/lifestyle/wellness/2001/04/24/applied-orally-missile-defense-technology-may-work/8be60d5c-caa6-4deb-a175-e164421b9f6c/>>. 3) Source: Oral Cancer Foundation. Oral Cancer Facts, [www.oralcancerfoundation.org/facts](http://www.oralcancerfoundation.org/facts), accessed March 2016.