



Friday, April 29, 2022 at the Sharonville Convention Center

**“Epithelial Pathology from A to Z”
and “Emerging Trends-Management of
Oropharyngeal Cancer” - 6.5 CE Credits**

Theresa Gonzales, DMD

(Dental Hygienists, Dental Assistants & Administrative Personnel of registered dentists for this course are invited to attend if space permits. See tuition charge on registration form.)

First Course Description

The history of clinical diagnosis began in earnest from the enlightened days of Hippocrates in ancient Greece but is far from perfect despite the enormous bounty of information made available by medical research including the sequencing of the human genome. The practice of *diagnosis* continues to be dominated by theories set down in the early 1900s. The word “diagnosis” is derived from Greek, and it is literally translated “through knowledge.” Diagnoses do not come about by “blinding flashes of brilliance” but instead are arrived at rather methodically through the systematic and disciplined application of knowledge. This half-day presentation is designed to reacquaint the oral health care provider with common mucosal presentations. There is an axiomatic principle that governs clinical practice - “common things occur commonly”. According to a recent study, there are a handful of relatively common oral mucosal presentations that comprise almost three-quarters of oral lesions for which patients seek consultation. This course will provide a review and clinical update of those commonly encountered pathologic entities as well as the deployment of the appropriate treatment algorithm. Clinical presentations from aphthae to zoster will be covered in an effort to improve the clinician’s comfort level in diagnosing and managing these

Learning Objectives

Participants should be able to:

1. Expand your clinical diagnostic algorithm.
2. Correlate oral presentations with systemic possibilities.
3. Expand your treatment algorithm.

Second Course Description

While some think this is a rare cancer, mouth cancers will be newly diagnosed in about 132 new individuals each day in the US alone, and a person dies from oral cancer every hour of every day. The oropharynx is one of the most common sites of head and neck cancer in the United States. It is estimated that 11,000-13,000 new cases of oropharyngeal cancer are diagnosed in the United States each year. Most of these tumors are *squamous cell carcinoma*, a cancer which arises from squamous epithelial cells which line the upper aerodigestive tract. Males are more than four times as likely as females to develop oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma (OPSCC), with an overall annual risk of 6.2 per 100,000 men compared to 1.4 cases per 100,000 women. Incidence in the U.S. is highest among white and black men, and lower among Hispanics, Native Americans, and Asians/ Pacific Islanders. Despite decreasing rates of tobacco and alcohol use, the rates of oropharyngeal cancer have trended steadily upward for the last decade. This is primarily due to the increase in cancers related to infection with the human papilloma virus (HPV). The time lag between an oral HPV infection and the development of HPV-related oropharyngeal cancer is estimated at between 15 and 30 years. Unfortunately, at this time, the majority are found as late-stage cancers, and this accounts for the very high death rate of about 43% at five years from diagnosis (for all stages and etiologies combined at time of diagnosis), and high treatment related morbidity in survivors. This course is designed to review the pathophysiology of oropharyngeal cancer and emerging trends in cancer management.

Learning Objectives

1. Identify the most common etiologies of oral cancer and its incidence within the population.
2. Review the basic histology of the oral mucosa and the changes that occur with premalignant and malignant lesions and their patterns of occurrence.
3. Review current treatment recommendations and clinical outcomes.
4. Review the principles of and the complications from radiotherapy.
5. Discuss the developing role of immunotherapy in the management of late-stage tumors.

About the Speaker

Dr. Gonzales was recently selected to serve as the Executive Director of the American College of Dentists. In 2013, she retired from the United States Army Dental Corps after a long and distinguished career in active federal service to this Nation. Prior to her retirement, she was a nominative selection as the Director of Strategic Communications for the Army Surgeon General. She has commanded formations in Europe, the Middle East, and the United States. Dr. Gonzales graduated Magna Cum Laude from the College of Charleston with a B.S. in Chemistry and received her D.M.D. from the Medical University of South Carolina. Colonel Gonzales began her military career at Fort Jackson, South Carolina as a resident in the Advanced Education in General Dentistry program. She then completed a residency training program in oral and maxillofacial pathology in 1992 at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda. In 2006, she completed a two-year fellowship in Orofacial Pain at the Naval Postgraduate Dental School and completed a Master of Science in Health Care from George Washington University in Washington, DC.

Dr. Gonzales has earned Fellowship status with the American Academy of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, the American Academy of Oral Medicine, and the Academy of General Dentistry. She is a Diplomate of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology and the American Board of Orofacial Pain. She holds Diplomate status as well as with the American Board of Forensic Examiners and the American Board of Forensic Medicine. She is a Fellow of both the American College and International College of Dentists. Dr. Gonzales's diverse professional background includes tours as staff assigned to Oral Surgery, Hanau, Germany, Force Dental Surgeon, Multinational Peace Keeping Force in El Gorah, Egypt as well as Chief, of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Walter Reed Army Medical Center and William Beaumont Army Medical Center.

Dr. Gonzales has authored over fifty scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals and was the recipient of the International College of Dentists Award for Excellence in Research. She has received the Order of Military Medical Merit and the Surgeon General's A designator for clinical excellence. She graduated with distinction from the United States Army War College in 2008. Theresa is also a Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology at the Medical University of South Carolina- James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine.