## Oral Cancer Could Be Detected Early

Two-thirds of all persons who get oral cancer could be saved through early detection, according to Dr. John D. Nystrom of Houghton, president of the Allegany County Dental Society, which includes this county. He noted that his month marks the Annual Cancer Crusade.

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"Oral cytology—a simple smear test of oral tissues to detect amination in which the dentist detecs an abnormal area," Dr. Nystrom declared.

Surveys by the American Caucer Society show that approximately 15,000 Americans get oral cancer each year, Dr. Nystrom disclosed. "Of these, that society reports, one in three will survive. But two of every three could be saved through early detection."

According to the Journal of the American Dental Association, he continued, the five-year cure rate for oral cancer can be doubled if lesions are discovered when they are less than 2 cubic millimeters in size.

Dr. Nystrom noted that cancers of the mouth and adjacent areas are among the most easily detected of all such lesions. "Like skin cancers, they are readily accessible to diagnosis and amenable to cure. But they must be detected and treated sufficiently early. One of the tragedies of oral cancer is that so many of its victims wait too long in securing treatment."

Everyone. Dr. Nystrom said

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Everyone, Dr. Nystrom said, should be on the alert for the following symptoms: 1) Unusual bleeding or discharge; 2) A lump, or swelling of the lip, gum, tongue, cheek, palate, tonsil, or neck; 3) a sore, or ulceration, that does not heal within two weeks. "Also watch for white, scaly areas inside the mouth, and numbress or loss of feeling", he urged. "Most of these symptoms are painless. None of them necessarily means cancer, but the mere presence of any, of them iustifies a dentist's prompt attention."

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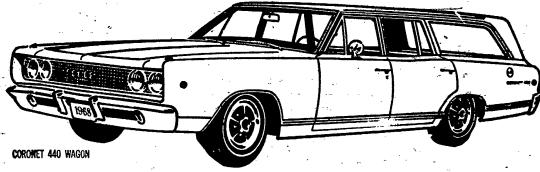
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