



MEDIA ALERT - MOUTH CANCER SCREENING HELPS SAVED LIVES

MONDAY 29TH MARCH 2010

INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE:

- **FOUNDER OF THE MOUTH CANCER FOUNDATION - DR VINOD JOSHI**
- **MOUTH CANCER SURVIVOR - MELANIE BROOKS**

To set up an interview please call Media Ambitions on 0208 940 2222.

The Mouth Cancer Foundation is once again providing free mouth cancer screening to the public at the annual Mouth Cancer Awareness Walk on 18th September 2010. The specialist screening team is lead by members of the Oral Medicine Department of the Eastman Dental Institute and the Department of Community Special Care Dentistry, King's College London.

At last year's 10KM Awareness Walk, the charity's specialist team screened 81 people in the afternoon and discovered that 8 people required further investigation.

The founder of the **Mouth Cancer Foundation** Dr Joshi says *"A common story many mouth cancer patients relate is that they were diagnosed late. Early diagnosis increases survival rates and there are very particularly obvious signs and symptoms mouth cancer patients have which are often overlooked by GP's and GDP's because of there lack of awareness of the disease. The public needs to be aware of mouth cancer, too. The screening our specialist team provides at the Walk is something all dentists should be doing daily."*

Mouth cancer survivor Melanie Brooks, 26, has first hand experience of how devastating the late detection of mouth cancer can be. She was diagnosed with Mouth Cancer aged just 21. Melanie says *"the symptoms of my mouth cancer went undiagnosed for 18 months. The tumor was visible on my soft palate and I had major reconstruction surgery in January 2006 followed by six weeks of radiotherapy and further reconstruction. The consequences of my cancer are still evident today with changes to my speech and appearance"*.

For more information visit the **Mouth Cancer Foundation** at www.mouthcancerfoundation.org and to sign up to the Mouth Cancer 10K Awareness Walk visit www.mouthcancerwalk.org.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

The Mouth Cancer Foundation - www.mouthcancerfoundation.org

The Mouth Cancer Foundation is a registered charity no. 1109298.
In 2010 The Mouth Cancer Foundation celebrates its 5th anniversary.

In the UK, nearly 8000 people are diagnosed with Mouth Cancer every year. Cancers can occur in any part of the mouth, tongue, lips, and adjacent areas like the throat, salivary glands, pharynx, larynx, sinus, and other sites in the head and neck area. In its very early stages, these Mouth Cancers can be easy to ignore.

Symptoms include:

1. An ulcer or white or red patch anywhere in the mouth that does not heal within 3 weeks
2. A lump or swelling anywhere in the mouth, jaw or neck that persists for more than 3 weeks
3. A difficulty in swallowing, chewing or moving the jaw or tongue
5. A numbness of the tongue or other area of the mouth
6. A feeling that something is caught in the throat
7. A chronic sore throat or hoarseness that persists more than 6 weeks
8. An unexplained loosening of teeth with no dental cause

More information about Mouth Cancer is available at the Mouth Cancer Foundation web site www.mouthcancerfoundation.org or by emailing info@mouthcancerfoundation.org