

4. Head and Neck

HEAD AND NECK CANCER - Oral/Throat/Lip Lesion¹⁰

If the patient presents **with one or more** of the following red flags, then the referral should be triaged as 'High Suspicion of Cancer'.

Red flags	YES or NO
A visible or palpable Oral, Throat, or Lip Lesion and one or more of the following:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">unexplained ulcer/lesion/lump persisting for > 3 weeks	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">leukoplakia – must be either nodular, swollen, or bleeding (flat leukoplakia requires standard referral)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">erythroplakia	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">unexplained tooth mobility/ non-healing socket	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">persistent numbness chin, lip, palate or tongue	

¹⁰ **Risk factors:**

- Smoking history
- Excess alcohol intake
- Immunosuppression
- Betel nut
- Previous history of mouth cancer