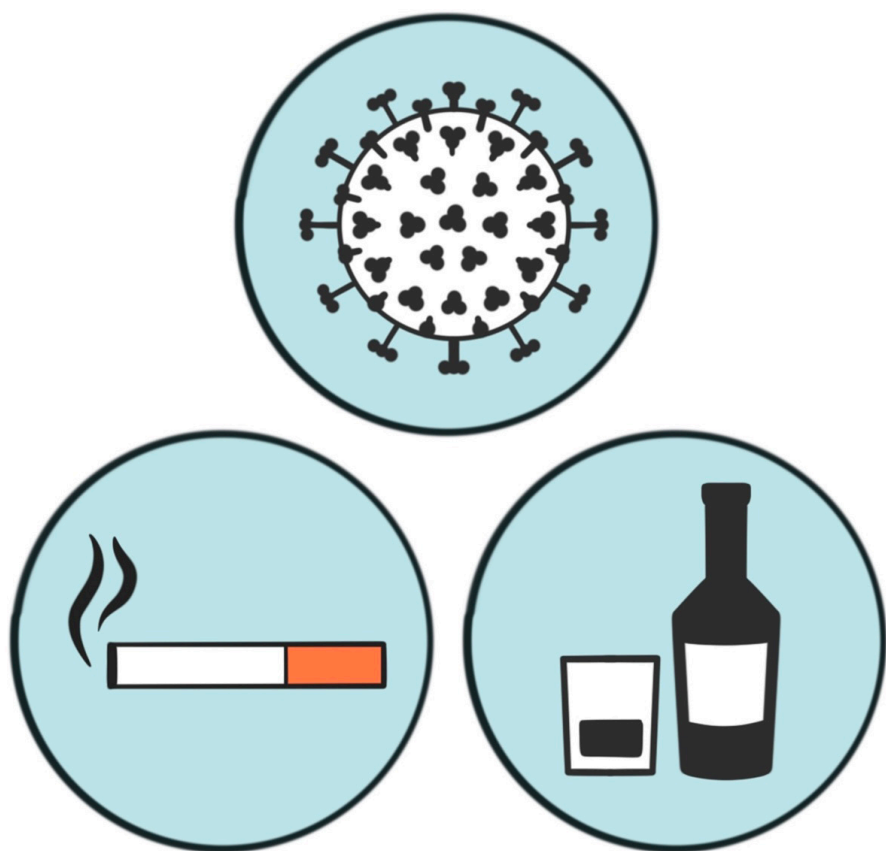


# Tongue Cancer

Tongue cancer is a type of cancer that affects your tongue, the muscle responsible for taste, speaking, eating, and swallowing. Sore throat and ear pain are the most common symptoms. Different types of cancers affect your tongue, but most often begin in the thin, flat cells that line the surface of your tongue. Tongue cancer is most common in people ages 40 and up, it affects men twice as much as woman and African American men in particular are at higher risk. Tongue Cancer can be a deadly disease, and you should consult your doctor if you show any of the symptoms. There is no way to guarantee you will not get tongue cancer, but there are multiple ways to treat it.



## Causes and Prevention

- HPV can cause tongue and other oral cancers.
- Tobacco, and alcohol use
- Risk increases with age, most cases occurring in people over 40.
- Poor nutrition can contribute to increased risk of oral cancer.
- Some people have a genetically higher risk of developing oral cancers.

## How to Treat Tongue Cancer

- Surgery is the primary treatment for tongue cancer. Surgical removal of the cancer can resolve most cases, and the tongue can be reconstructed.
- Radiation is used for those who are not good surgical candidates, as well as in conjunction with surgery to keep the cancer from returning.
- Chemotherapy is used for severe cases where the cancer has spread to beyond the tongue, most commonly to the lymph nodes.

