

## **Cancer Treatment and Oral Health**

### *Informed Patient Treatment Protocol*

Radiation and chemotherapy are powerful treatment methods used to eradicate cancer. Although they destroy cancerous cells, other normal tissues are affected as well. In the oral cavity, our salivary glands are damaged such that normal saliva secretion is greatly reduced, often times making it difficult to swallow, speak, and chew foods .

In addition to lubricating the oral cavity, saliva also promotes a healthy oral environment by creating a buffer from destructive digestive acids.