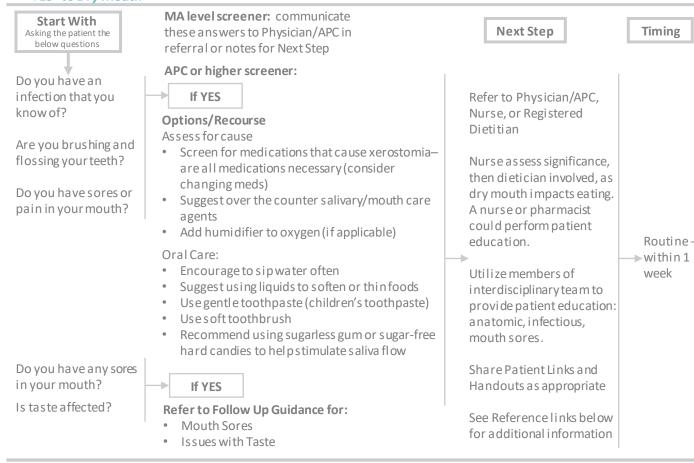
## Clinician Follow Up Reference for Supportive Care Physical Concerns – "YES" to *Dry Mouth*



## Notes

Stages I-III: Suggest dietary and educational counseling for the prevention of dysgeusia. The Oral Care Study Group of the Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer and International Society of Oral Oncology (MASCC/ISOO) recommends the use of oral pilocarpine (Level of evidence II, Grade B) or oral mucosal lubricants/saliva substitutes for short-term improvement of xerostomia following radiation therapy in head and neck cancer patients. (Level of evidence II, Grade B). They also suggest the use of acupuncture to stimulate salivary gland secretion and to alleviate xerostomia. (Level of evidence II, Grade C)

**Stage IV:** Recommendations as above (soft toothbrush, over the counter salivary/mouth care agents; sugar-free gum or hard candies).

**Geriatric:** Dry mouth is very common in this population. Dental/denture insurance coverage may not be adequate, important to address this symptom in this population to help circumvent any issues or out of pocket costs. (e.g., Dentures may become ill fitting and need adjustments, hospital responsibility to keep track of dentures when patient is admitted to hospital and all personal belongings, keep near patient **at all times** and inventoried in EMR to prevent loss). Oral health is very important. Dry mouths are more prone to infections.

## **Patient Links and Handouts:**

- > American Cancer Society, Mouth Sores, Pain, and Dryness
- Cancer.Net, Dry Mouth or Xerostomia
- ► NIH. Oral Complications of Chemotherapy and Head/Neck Radiation (PDO®)—Patient Version
- > NIH. Chemotherapy and Your Mouth
- > NIH. Head and Neck Radiation Treatment and Your Mouth
- NIH. Dry Mouth
- > ASCO answers. Dental and Oral Health

CSOC Patient Handout can be accessed at: http://cancer-help.me/drymouth

## References:

- > American Dental Association, Xerostomia (Dry Mouth)
- > NIH. Oral Complication of Chemotherapy and Head/Neck Radiation (PDO®) Professional Version
- > NIH. Cancer Treatments and Oral Health
- > NIH. Oncology Team. Oral Complications of Cancer Treatment
- ➤ NIH, Oncology Team, Oncology Pocket Guide to Oral Health

