

# Specimens submitted (Core) and Tumour site (Core)

## Reason/Evidentiary Support

The anatomy and surgical interventions of the oral cavity are complex and it is important to ensure accurate and precise communication between the pathologists and the treating and diagnostic team with respect to exact anatomic site of involvement, tumour laterality and specific operative procedures.<sup>1-3</sup>

The protocol applies to all carcinomas arising at these sites (see Figure 1). For large cancers that involve more than one site, the primary site of involvement should be recorded.

**Mucosal Lip.** The lip begins at the junction of the vermilion border with the skin and includes only the vermilion surface or that portion of the lip that meets the opposing lip.

**Buccal Mucosa (Inner Cheek).** Refers to the mucous membrane lining of the inner surface of the cheeks and lips of contact of the opposing lips to the line of attachment of mucosa of the upper and lower alveolar ridge and pterygomandibular raphe.

**Lower Alveolar Ridge.** This refers to the mucosa overlying the alveolar process of the mandible, which extends from the line of attachment of mucosa in the buccal vestibule to the line of free mucosa of the floor of the mouth. Posteriorly it extends to the ascending ramus of the mandible.

**Upper Alveolar Ridge.** This refers to the mucosa overlying the alveolar process of the maxilla, which extends from the line of attachment of mucosa in the upper gingival buccal vestibule to the junction of the hard palate. The posterior margin is the upper end of the pterygopalatine arch.

**Floor of the Mouth.** This is a semilunar space over the mylohyoid and hypoglossus muscles, extending from the inner surface of the lower alveolar ridge to the undersurface of the tongue. The posterior boundary is the base of the anterior pillar of the tonsil. It is divided into two sides of the submaxillary and sublingual salivary glands.

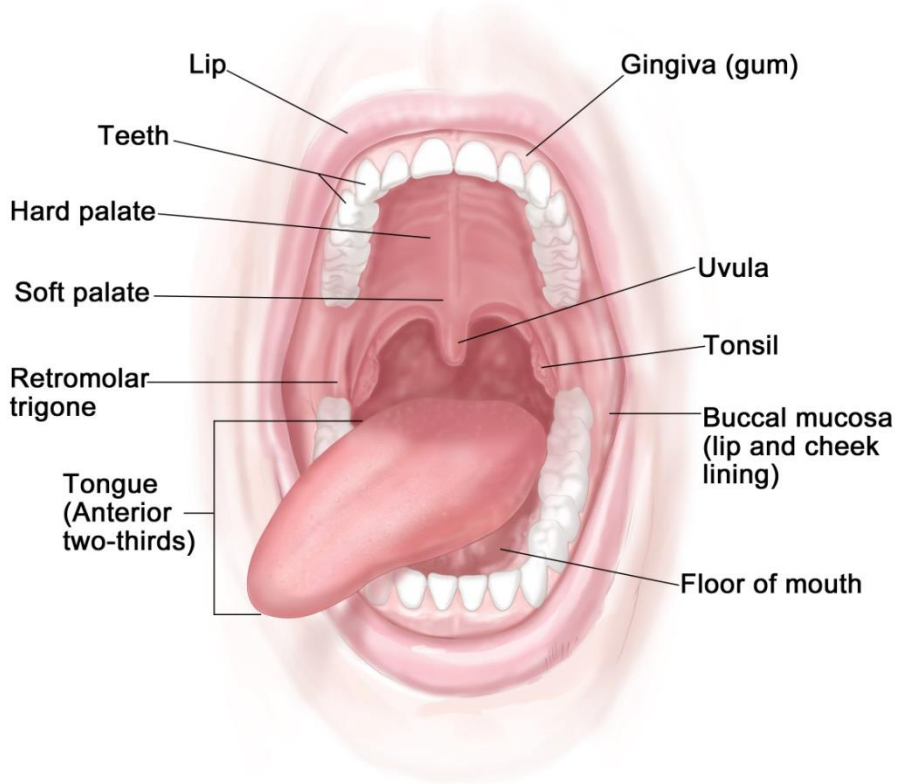
**Hard Palate.** This is the semilunar area between the upper alveolar ridge and the mucous membrane covering the palatine process of the maxillary palatine bones. It extends from the inner surface of the superior alveolar ridge to the posterior edge of the palatine bone.

**Anterior Two-Thirds of the Tongue (Oral Tongue).** This is the freely mobile portion of the tongue that extends anteriorly from the line of circumvallate papillae to the undersurface (ventral) of the tongue at the junction of the floor of the mouth. It includes the tip of tongue, lateral borders, dorsal surface and ventral tongue.

**Retromolar trigone.** A triangular shaped region extending distal from the mandibular third molar as the base and attaches to the hamulus of the medial pterygoid process of the sphenoid bone as the apex.

‘Not specified’ should be used rarely and only after good effort has been employed to obtain the requisite information.

## Anatomy of the Oral Cavity



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**Figure 1. Anatomic sites and subsites for lip and oral cavity**

### References

- 1 Shah JP and Gil Z (2009). Current concepts in management of oral cancer--surgery. *Oral Oncol* 45(4-5):394-401.
- 2 Nakhleh RE (2011). Quality in surgical pathology communication and reporting. *Arch Pathol Lab Med* 135(11):1394-1397.
- 3 Nakhleh RE, Myers JL, Allen TC, DeYoung BR, Fitzgibbons PL, Funkhouser WK, Mody DR, Lynn A, Fatheree LA, Smith AT, Lal A and Silverman JF (2012). Consensus statement on effective communication of urgent diagnoses and significant, unexpected diagnoses in surgical pathology and cytopathology from the College of American Pathologists and Association of Directors of Anatomic and Surgical Pathology. *Arch Pathol Lab Med* 136(2):148-154.