

NYDHA EMPIRE CONFERENCE

**Friday, Nov. 6, 2026
- from 12:30-3 p.m.**

**Course 1
2 CE hours**

The Latest on HPV and Oral Cancer: What Dental Hygienists Need to Know

This program begins with welcome as we cut the purple ribbon on the 2026 NYDHA Empire Conference and applaud NYS dental hygienists for their dedication to oral health care and the dental hygiene profession. We are delighted to welcome back Dr. Gwen Cohen Brown who will be the first speakers of nine CE presentations throughout the conference.

Description: This course will explore the link between Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and oropharyngeal cancers, focusing on clinical awareness, risk factors, patient communication, clinical guidelines for HPV vaccinations, appropriate treatment modalities and when to refer for further assessment.

The etiology of oral cancer has changed dramatically over the past two decades, and HPV is the most likely cause of oral cancer according to the ADA and oral cancer foundation.

The course also will address the rising incidence of HPV-associated head and neck cancers and changes in etiology of oral cancer.

Learning Objectives: Participants will learn to:

- Review the epidemiology of Human Papillomavirus (HPV).
- Discuss the clinical presentations of oral HPV lesions.
- Get up to speed on current oral cancer screening protocols.
- Learn the latest CDC and FDA guidelines for vaccination.
- Answer frequently asked questions about HPV vaccines.

About Our Speaker

Gwen Cohen Brown, DDS, is a full Professor in the Department of Dental Hygiene at the New York City College of Technology and a Fellow in the American Academy of Oral and Maxillo-facial Pathology.

Dr. Brown has been faculty at the AIDS Institute since 1992 and the Northeast/Caribbean AIDS Education Training Center (AETC) since 1993. She provides continuing education on the topics of Infection Control, Oral Cancer and Emerging Medical Technologies, and Common Oral Lesions for licensed health care providers in NY and NJ where she represents and is sponsored by the Greater New York Dental Meeting, NYSDOH, the NYSDOC, the AIDS Institute and the AETC. Dr. Brown has been running the Oral Cancer Screening Project for the Russian American Dental Association for the past 15 years.

Dr. Brown graduated with a Doctor in Dental Surgery degree from New York University College of Dentistry in 1988, followed by an Advanced Education Program in General Practice Dentistry, also at NYUCD in 1989. She completed a three-year residency program in Oral and Maxillo-Facial Pathology at the New York Hospital Medical Center of Queens followed by a two-year sub-specialty fellowship in Oral and Maxillo-Facial Pathology at the Health Science Center SUNY Brooklyn Downstate Medical College/Kings County Hospital Medical Facility. Dr. Brown has worked at NYCCT since 2004.

