

## CANCER & XEROSTOMIA

Also known as dry mouth, xerostomia occurs when salivary glands stop working. University of Alberta researcher Jana Rieger likens the feeling of xerostomia to the experience of the after-effects of having surgery and anesthetic -- but the feeling is permanent.

While the importance of healthy saliva glands may be an afterthought for some patients when battling cancer, the long-lasting effects create a number of problems for them when they are in remission.



"We need saliva to keep our mouths healthy," said Rieger. "Without saliva, people can lose their teeth, dentures don't fit properly and the ability to swallow and speak is severely altered." Oncologists should advise patients to start using Xerostom as soon as they receive their diagnosis. Xerostom is a Nature's Moisturizer for dry mouth, proven to increase the salivary flow up to 200% and relieve pain associated with Xerostomia (*Oral Rehabil* 2007 (34):724-732. NYC, USA.) It is imperative that their mouth is in the optimum condition before any treatment starts.