Jennifer Cicci

Professional Speaker | Registered Dental Hygienist | Patient Advocate

Lecture Title

From Clinician to Patient: My Journey With Head and Neck Cancer

Lecture Synopsis

In this powerful and deeply moving presentation, Jennifer Cicci shares her journey from experienced dental hygienist to patient diagnosed with stage 4 HPV-related oropharyngeal cancer. Blending clinical expertise with lived experience, she offers a rare dual perspective that resonates with healthcare professionals, highlighting both the clinical and human impact of cancer care.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the signs and risk factors associated with HPV-related head and neck cancers
- Recognize the short- and long-term oral and systemic effects of cancer treatment
- Apply a more patient-centered, empathetic approach to clinical care and communication

Recent Speaking Engagements

- Alberta Dental Team Summit — Alberta Dental Association — March 2026
- University of Manitoba — Faculties of Dentistry and Dental Hygiene — August 2025

Endorsements

"Jennifer is a compelling and moving speaker. Her ability to share her terrifying yet inspiring journey is a testament to her remarkable strength and resilience. What makes her especially impactful is her unique ability to blend the real-life effects cancer has on patients with the perspective of a clinician, helping translate those experiences into meaningful insights for practice — a rare and valuable skill to have.

Inviting her to present at the Alberta Dental Team Summit truly helped change the hearts and minds of our audience – with many saying it was the highlight of the event. I cannot recommend engaging her highly enough."
— Hailey Riendeau, Alberta Dental Association

"Jennifer's presentation was both impactful and unforgettable. Her ability to connect clinical knowledge with lived experience created a powerful learning environment for both faculty and students. She brought authenticity, vulnerability, and expertise to the stage, leaving a lasting impression and reinforcing the importance of early detection and compassionate care."
— University of Manitoba, Faculties of Dentistry & Dental Hygiene

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