**Synopsis:**
This four-hour overview of common and significant oral mucosal and head and neck soft tissue swellings will prepare the clinician to differentiate and diagnose a variety of developmental, inflammatory, neoplastic, systemic, and degenerative lesions using evidence-based diagnostic skills. Emphasis will be placed on the correlation of the oral manifestations these disease processes to their importance in the practice of dentistry.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Define surface terminology related to soft tissue swellings of the oral mucosa and facial dermis.
- Understand the etiological principles associated with oral mucosal soft tissue swellings.
- Relate the significance of subjective aspects of soft tissue lesion evaluation (duration and symptoms) in the determination of a diagnosis.
- Relate the significance of objective aspects of soft tissue lesion evaluation (color, size, location and surface) in the determination of a diagnosis.
- Describe the various types of clinical and laboratory tests that are used to differentiate among the numerous swellings of the oral mucosa and head and neck.
- Appreciate the importance of correct diagnosis of oral mucosal swellings to facilitate proper treatment of these lesions.

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Dr. Herschaft received a DDS from West Virginia University School of Dentistry, a certificate in oral and maxillofacial pathology from the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). He is Professor Emeritus - MUSC College of Dental Medicine, Professor of Biomedical Sciences - University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) School of Dental Medicine, and Guest Professor - Medical School of Nankai University in Tianjin, China. Dr. Herschaft is one of the quality assurance officers for the UNLV School of Dental Medicine. He is a Diplomate of the American Boards of Oral Medicine and Forensic Odontology and Fellow of the American and International Colleges of Dentists, AAFS and Pierre Fauchard Academy.

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