

## **BURNING MOUTH SYNDROME**

*Please read this information sheet. If you have any questions, particularly about the treatment or potential side-effects, please ask your doctor.*

- This is a common condition
- The cause is not usually known but it may be a nerve hypersensitivity
- It is not inherited
- It is not infectious
- It may occasionally be caused by some mouth conditions, dry mouth, deficiencies, diabetes or drugs
- It has no long-term consequences
- Blood tests or biopsy *may* be required
- Burning mouth syndrome may be controlled by some nerve-calming drugs
- Useful website: [http://www.mssm.edu/msjournal/65/05\\_miy.pdf](http://www.mssm.edu/msjournal/65/05_miy.pdf)

*A patient has the right under common law to give or withhold consent to medical examination of treatment. This is one of the basic principles of health care. Patients are entitled to receive sufficient information in a way they can understand about the proposed treatments, the possible alternatives and any substantial risk or risks which may be special in kind or magnitude or special to the patient, so that they can make a balanced judgement. (UK Health Dept. 19.2.99. HSC 1999/031)*

Professor Crispian Scully CBE

Eastman Dental Institute for Oral Health Care Sciences  
and International Centres for Excellence in Dentistry

University of London

256, Gray's Inn Road

London WC1X 8LD

[www.eastman.ucl.ac.uk](http://www.eastman.ucl.ac.uk)

February 2003