



# NOTES ORAL DISEASE

## GENERALLY, WHAT IS IT?

### PATHOLOGY & CAUSES

- Infectious, inflammatory diseases; affect oral cavity, associated structures

### RISK FACTORS

- Poor oral hygiene, dehydration, concomitant illness, malnutrition

### SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

- Inflammation
  - Redness, swelling, pain, loss of function, warmth
- Infection
  - Fever, malaise, localized pain

### DIAGNOSIS

#### DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING

##### X-ray

- See individual diseases

##### CT scan

- Soft tissue inflammation extension

### TREATMENT

#### MEDICATIONS

- Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) for pain
  - For inflammation
- Antibiotics, antifungal medications
  - For infection

## APHTHOUS ULCERS

[osms.it/aphthous-ulcers](https://osms.it/aphthous-ulcers)

### PATHOLOGY & CAUSES

- Painful lesions inside mouth; benign, non-infectious; AKA canker sores

### TYPES

#### Minor

- Small (3–4mm), last 7–10 days, recur 3–4 times/year; if recurrent, > 4 times/year

#### Major

- Lesions > 1cm, last 10–30 days

#### Herpetiform

- Coalesce, recur frequently

### CAUSES

- Idiopathic; likely multifactorial; may be part of TH1 autoimmune response, hormonal factors influence epithelium thickness, connected to vitamin B<sub>12</sub> deficiencies

### RISK FACTORS

- Stress, systemic autoimmune disorders (e.g. celiac), nutritional deficiencies, stopping smoking, oral cavity trauma (e.g. biting lips, dentures)

## COMPLICATIONS

- Recurrent aphthous stomatitis (Mikulicz ulcers), infection; may interfere with eating/drinking

## SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

- Round/oval ulcerations in oral mucosa, white/yellow sharply demarcated center covered with fibrous membrane cap, surrounded by red erythematous margins; yellowish exudate
- Inside of cheeks, lips; under tongue; painful swallowing, if in back of throat

### Minor

- Small, mildly painful, annoying, round/oval, disappear within seven days, resolve spontaneously, no scarring; more common on non-keratinized epithelium

### Major

- Larger, painful, recur more often, may scar

### Herpetiform

- Not herpes virus connected, vesicles coalesce into patches



**Figure 39.1** The clinical appearance of aphthous ulcers.

## DIAGNOSIS

### OTHER DIAGNOSTICS

- Recurrence of ulcers

## TREATMENT

### MEDICATIONS

- Vitamin B<sub>12</sub> supplementation
- Topical analgesics, corticosteroids, sucralfate suspension
- Anti-tumor necrosis factor (TNF)-alpha agents
  - Recalcitrant, recurrent ulcers

### OTHER INTERVENTIONS

- Avoid triggers

# DENTAL CARIES DISEASE

osms.it/dental-caries

## PATHOLOGY & CAUSES

- Odontogenic infections; tooth decay caused by acids produced by bacteria.
- Bacteria → plaque → ↓ pH → demineralization → caries

## CAUSES

- *Streptococcus mutans*, *Streptococcus sobrinus*, *Lactobacillus spp.*
  - Metabolically produce acids

## RISK FACTORS

- Prolonged bottle use (baby bottle tooth decay), poor oral hygiene, sugar-rich foods, diabetes mellitus (DM), salivary gland disorders (e.g. Sjogren's), medications that decrease salivation

## COMPLICATIONS

- Hematogenous spread of bacteria to heart valves, joints, implanted prosthetics
- Spread from enamel to tooth pulp, alveolar bone
- Abscesses
- Soft tissue infections in extraoral perforation
- Deep head, neck infections
- Jaw osteomyelitis
- Tooth loss

## SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

- Yellow/black teeth staining, enamel softening; appearance of pits, cracks
- If severe: tooth collapse
- If pulp affected: dull pain exacerbated by cold, soft food
- If root caries: lower, where teeth close together, food difficult to extract; more difficult to diagnose

## DIAGNOSIS

### DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING

#### Odontogram (jaw X-ray)

- Examine depth of lesions

#### CT scan

- If widespread, soft tissue infection

### OTHER DIAGNOSTICS

#### Clinical presentation

- Teeth discoloration, changes

## TREATMENT

### MEDICATIONS

- Topical/systemic antibiotics

### SURGERY

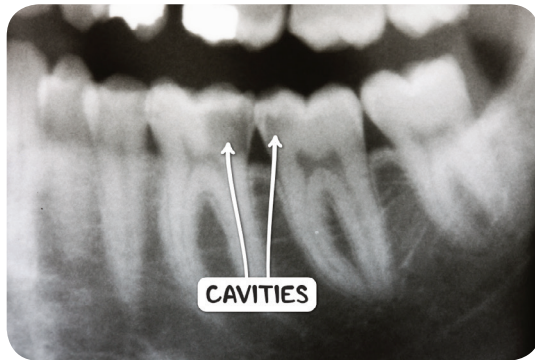
- Extraction of infected material, replacement with fillings

### OTHER INTERVENTIONS

- Dietary counselling, hygiene improvement



**Figure 39.2** A dental cavity in the tooth of a ten-year-old boy.



**Figure 39.3** An orthopantomogram demonstrating dental cavities of the left mandibular second and third molar teeth.

# GINGIVITIS

[osms.it/gingivitis](https://osms.it/gingivitis)

## **PATHOLOGY & CAUSES**

- Type of periodontal disease; inflammation of gums
- Pathogenic bacteria tunnel between microcolonies on tooth to surface in order to bring in steady supply of food → form hard mass (dental calculus) → bacterial plaque formation → enter gingival sulcus → gingivitis
- Immune response delivers blood to damaged tissue → provides nutrients for bacteria → immune response activates osteoclasts → dissolves bone → tooth loosening
- Non-infectious systemic factors → gingival overgrowth, inflammation
  - Hormonal shifts (e.g. during pregnancy)
  - Drug-induced (e.g. phenytoin, calcium channel blockers)
  - Malnutrition-induced (e.g. vitamin C deficiency)
  - Non-plaque-induced (rare, associated with genetics, allergy, trauma)

## **RISK FACTORS**

- Poor dental hygiene, older age

## **COMPLICATIONS**

- Periodontitis, tooth loss, receding gums

## **SIGNS & SYMPTOMS**

- Redness, swelling, bleeding after brushing/flossing
- May be asymptomatic in early infection

## **DIAGNOSIS**

### **DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING**

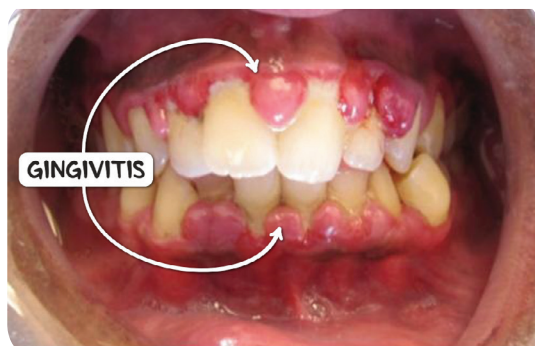
#### **X-ray**

- Evaluate bone level, sulcus becomes deeper as periodontal pocket expands

### **OTHER DIAGNOSTICS**

#### **Physical exam**

- Swollen/bleeding gums, probe gingival sulcus to determine depth



**Figure 39.4** An individual with a severe case of gingivitis. The gums are swollen and hemorrhagic. There is visible plaque covering the free gingival margin of both maxillary incisors.

## TREATMENT

### MEDICATIONS

- Antibiotics for severe infections

### SURGERY

- Removal of infected tissue if severe

# LUDWIG'S ANGINA

[osms.it/ludwigs-angina](https://osms.it/ludwigs-angina)

## PATHOLOGY & CAUSES

- Bilateral infection of submandibular space (sublingual, submylohyoid)

### CAUSES

- Spread from infection of 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> mandibular molars, pericoronitis, parotitis, peritonsillar abscess
- Mandibular fracture, piercings
- Causative agents polymicrobial from mouth flora, dominated by *Streptococcus viridans*; *staphylococci*, *bacteroides* also common

### RISK FACTORS

- DM, hypertension, HIV infection, immunosuppression

### COMPLICATIONS

- Airway obstruction, mediastinitis, necrotizing cellulitis, sepsis, asphyxia

## SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

- Infection
  - Fever, chills, malaise, pain
- Stiff neck, dysphagia, individual leans forward to expand airway, no lymphadenopathy, bilateral, sudden aggressive spread, enlarged tongue, drooling
- Critical symptoms
  - Stridor, cyanosis
- No abscess formation

## DIAGNOSIS

### DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING

#### CT scan

- Rule out abscess formation (occurs late in disease)
- Chest CT scan
  - Mediastinitis

**LAB RESULTS**

- Blood culture

**OTHER DIAGNOSTICS**

- Ultrasound-guided needle aspiration

**TREATMENT****MEDICATIONS**

- Empiric broad-spectrum antibiotics with beta-lactamase activity

**SURGERY**

- Surgical drainage, if abscess identified on CT scan

**OTHER INTERVENTIONS****Airway management**

- Fiberoptic nasal intubation, emergent tracheostomy may be necessary

# ORAL CANDIDIASIS

[osms.it/oral-candidiasis](https://osms.it/oral-candidiasis)

**PATHOLOGY & CAUSES**

- Opportunistic infection of oral mucosal membranes by *Candida* spp. (e.g. *Candida albicans*)
- AKA thrush

**TYPES****Pseudomembranous**

- Whitish plaques on oral mucosa (most common); can be scraped off to reveal erythematous surface

**Atrophic (denture stomatitis)**

- Red lesions without plaques

**Hyperplastic (rare)**

- Non-scrapable plaques

**RISK FACTORS**

- Young age, dentures, xerostomia, antibiotics, DM, malnutrition
- Immunosuppression due to corticosteroids, chemotherapy, HIV/AIDS

**COMPLICATIONS**

- Spread into pharynx, disseminated candidiasis

**SIGNS & SYMPTOMS**

- May be asymptomatic
- Cottony feeling in mouth; lesions
- Pain/tenderness in oral cavity
- Painful swallowing (odynophagia)
- Decreased sense of taste
- Angular cheilitis

**DIAGNOSIS****LAB RESULTS**

- Microbiological analysis of scrapings; Gram stain; KOH preparation; biopsy

## TREATMENT

### MEDICATIONS

- Topical antifungal agents (e.g. nystatin suspension, clotrimazole troches, systemic fluconazole)



**Figure 39.5** Oral candidiasis in a child who had taken antibiotics.

# PAROTITIS

[osms.it/parotitis](https://osms.it/parotitis)

## PATHOLOGY & CAUSES

- **Parotid gland inflammation**
- Salivary stasis → seeding of parotid (Stensen) duct by microorganisms → infection, inflammation

### CAUSES

- **Bacterial:** *S. aureus*, most common
- **Viral:** mumps, influenza, coxsackie, Epstein-Barr virus (EBV)
- **Autoinflammatory:** sarcoidosis as part of Mikulicz syndrome

### RISK FACTORS

- Surgery, dehydration, salivary gland stones, poor oral hygiene, medications that decrease salivation (e.g. anticholinergic,

sympathomimetics)

### COMPLICATIONS

- Spread to deep head, neck structures; septic jugular thrombophlebitis; septic osteomyelitis; sepsis; respiratory obstruction; facial nerve palsy

## SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

- Systemic manifestations
  - Fever, chills
- Periauricular, mandibular pain, swelling; trismus, dysphagia; purulent drainage
- Viral
  - No discharge, prodrome followed by swelling lasting 5–10 days



## DIAGNOSIS

### DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING

- Sample purulent exudate, ultrasound guided needle aspiration; culture, Gram stain

### Ultrasound

- Increased blood flow through gland, enlargement, nodules

### CT scan

- Extension of inflammation to surrounding tissues

### LAB RESULTS

- Complete blood count (CBC)
- Increased amylase without underlying pancreatitis
- Viral shows leukocytosis, increased IgM against mumps



**Figure 39.6** The clinical appearance of parotitis of the left parotid gland. There is a marked swelling just anterior to the left ear.

## TREATMENT

### MEDICATIONS

- Hydration; IV antibiotics
- Vaccination
  - Mumps prevention

# PERIODONTITIS

[osms.it/periodontitis](https://osms.it/periodontitis)

## PATHOLOGY & CAUSES

- Inflammation, **destruction of supporting structures around teeth**, wasting of bone
- Dysbiosis (disturbed bacterial symbiosis) more extreme than in gingivitis
- Orange-complex of bacteria (*Fusobacterium nucleatum*, *Prevotella intermedia*), red-complex of bacteria (*Tannerella forsythia*, *Treponema denticola*, *Porphyromonas gingivalis*) → immune response → more blood flow to damaged tissue → provides nutrients for bacteria → more damage to gingiva, periodontal ligament → activated osteoclasts in bone
  - tooth loosening
- Severity based on ligament loss
- *Porphyromonas gingivalis* impairs immune cells, kills bacteria → pathogenic bacteria overgrow
- Necrotizing ulcerative periodontitis (NUP)
  - Extreme loss of periodontal attachment, alveolar bone; associated with immunosuppression (e.g. HIV/AIDS; chemotherapy, severe malnutrition); may be associated with enteric bacteria, yeast



## CAUSES

- **Poor oral hygiene**; red-, orange-complex bacteria

## RISK FACTORS

- DM, smoking, Ehler-Danlos syndrome

## COMPLICATIONS

- **Tooth loss**, infection spread to soft tissues of head, neck, sinusitis; hematogenous dissemination to heart valves (prosthetic/native), joints, etc.

## SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

- **Redness, swelling, tender** to palpation
- **Halitosis**
- **Bleeding** during teeth brushing
- **Teeth loosening**
- **Periodontal pockets** widen

## DIAGNOSIS

### DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING

#### Panoramic dental X-ray

- Bone loss around tooth

## OTHER DIAGNOSTICS

- Clinical exam
  - Probe teeth pockets, test for bleeding, depth

## TREATMENT

### MEDICATIONS

- Systemic antibiotics (if severe)

### SURGERY

- Removal of infected tissue (if severe)

### OTHER INTERVENTIONS

- Prevent plaque formation
  - **Daily brushing, flossing**; antimicrobial agents (e.g. mouthwash)
- Scaling, root planing
  - Remove plaque
- Topical fluoride

# SIALADENITIS

[osms.it/sialadenitis](https://osms.it/sialadenitis)

## PATHOLOGY & CAUSES

- **Inflammation of salivary glands**
  - **Parotid** (most common), **sublingual**, **submandibular**; unilateral
- Decreased flow of saliva → deposits settle in walls of salivary duct → duct blocked → flow of saliva slowed → deposits of calcium, phosphorous, etc. precipitate → form small concretions (microsialoliths) → grow into sialoliths → stones block duct → bacteria moves from mouth up, around blockage, into salivary duct →

inflammation, tissue swelling

## CAUSES

- **Bacterial**: *Staphylococcus aureus* (most common), *Streptococcus viridans*, *Haemophilus influenzae*
- **Viral**: mumps, HIV

## RISK FACTORS

- **Decreased salivary flow** (dehydration, illness, anticholinergic medications, **Sjogren's syndrome**)
- Risk increases with age



**Figure 39.7** An individual holding their own salivary duct stone following surgical removal. Salivary duct stones predispose individuals to sialadenitis.

## SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

- Acute sialadenitis
  - Fever, chills, abscess formation
  - Pain, swelling, redness of skin overlying affected gland
  - Less saliva → dry mouth → bad taste (pus leaking out of affected duct)
  - Severe: painful to open mouth
- Chronic sialadenitis
  - Less painful, gland enlarges following meals, no overlying redness of the skin
  - Associated with conditions linked to chronic decreased salivary flow (e.g. Sjogren's syndrome), due to inflammation, salivary duct fibrosis, altering glandular tissue, composition of saliva

## DIAGNOSIS

### DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING

#### Ultrasound

- Abscess, salivary stone, tumor

## LAB RESULTS

- Lab culture of pus
  - Gentle compression of gland

## OTHER DIAGNOSTICS

- Clinical presentation

## TREATMENT

## MEDICATIONS

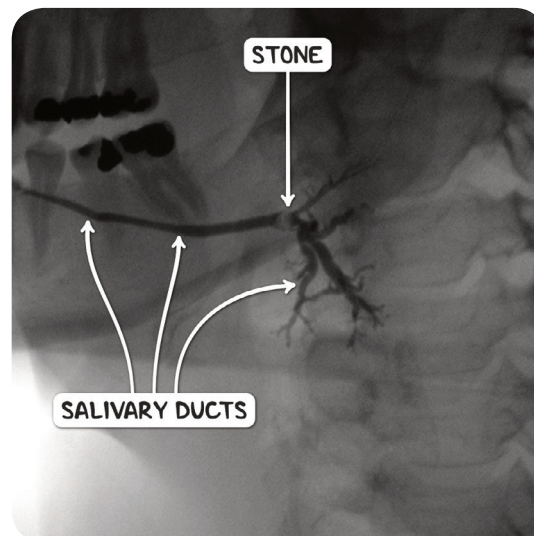
- Antibiotics

## SURGERY

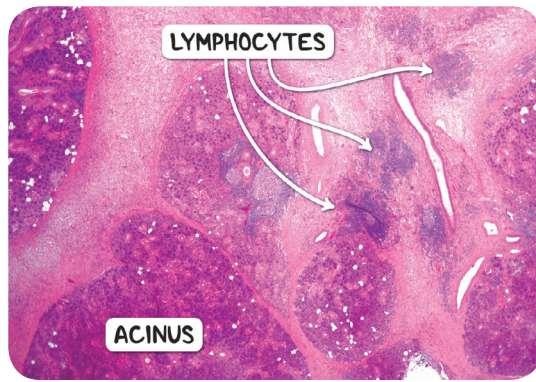
- Surgical gland removal
  - If disease recurrent

## OTHER INTERVENTIONS

- Hydration, warm compress, glandular massage, sialogogues



**Figure 39.8** A submandibular sialogram demonstrating a salivary duct stone; a risk factor for sialadenitis.



**Figure 39.9** The histological appearance of sialadenitis at low power. The acini are surrounded by dense fibrosis and display patchy lymphocytic infiltrates.