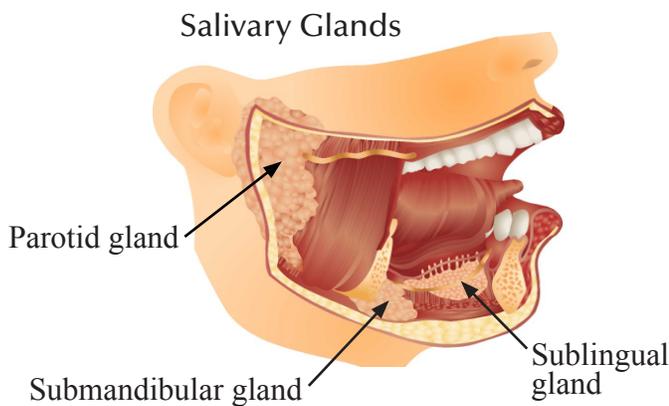


What is Sialadenitis?

Sialadenitis (sy-A-la-den-eye-tis) is a bacterial infection that develops in the salivary glands. This condition occurs when the flow of saliva is slowed or stopped and bacteria begin to grow. It develops most commonly in the parotid glands (located in front of the ears) and the submandibular and sublingual glands (located under the chin). Sialadenitis can happen after receiving radiation treatment for cancer.



What Are the Symptoms of Sialadenitis?

Sialadenitis causes a painful swelling or lump in the cheek or under the chin. In some cases, pus drains from the salivary ducts into the mouth. If the infection spreads beyond the salivary gland, you may develop a fever and chills.

How is Sialadenitis Treated?

Treatment for sialadenitis includes the following:

- Fluids to make sure your body is well hydrated. In some cases, it may be necessary to receive fluids through a vein (IV).
- Antibiotics to cure the infection
- Sour candies or gum to stimulate saliva secretion

Sialadenitis usually goes away within a week of treatment. If the infection is not successfully treated with these methods, surgery may be needed to drain the gland. If surgery is needed, your health care team will discuss what to expect and possible side effects with you.

Additional Resources

If you have questions or concerns, talk with your doctor or nurse. They can provide you with further educational materials on the following related topics:

- Parotidectomy (surgery to remove the parotid gland)
- Preventing infection
- Radiation to the Head and Neck
- Dysphagia (difficulty swallowing)
- Mucositis (inflammation or sores in the mouth)
- Eating well
- Nausea and vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Pain control
- Distress