Parotitis

You have parotitis. This is an inflammation of the saliva gland in front of your ear. Symptoms include swelling and pain, which may get worse when you eat. This condition can be caused by a virus infection, such as mumps, or by a blocked saliva duct. Mucous plugs and small stones can block the flow of saliva, and then the gland can even become infected. Sometimes a salivary stone can be seen on x-ray.

Treatment of parotitis depends on the cause. If there is a stone in the duct, sucking on a lemon wedge or sour candies several times daily to produce saliva may help push out the stone. Antibiotic medicine may be needed if the gland becomes infected. Increase your fluid intake and apply warm compresses to the swollen area for 20 minutes 3-4 times daily. Massaging the gland from back to forward may encourage drainage and relieve the blockage.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF YOU DEVELOP:

- Uncontrolled pain and swelling.
- A high fever, severe headache, vomiting, or other serious symptoms.

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