Salivary Gland Infection

A salivary gland infection can be caused by a virus, bacteria from the mouth, or a stone. Mumps and other viruses may settle in one or more of the saliva glands. This will result in swelling, pain, and difficulty eating. Bacteria may cause a more severe infection in a salivary gland. A salivary stone blocking the flow of saliva can make this worse. These infections may be related to other medical problems. Some of these are dehydration, recent surgery, poor nutrition, and some medications.

TREATMENT

Treatment of a salivary gland infection depends on the cause. Mumps and other virus infections do not require antibiotics. If bacteria cause the infection, then antibiotics are needed to get rid of the infection. If there is a salivary stone blocking the duct, minor surgery to remove the stone may be needed.

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- Get plenty of rest, increase your fluids, and use warm compresses on the swollen area for 15 to 20 minutes 4 times per day or as often as feels good to you.
- Suck on hard candy or chew sugarless gum to promote saliva production.
- Only take over-the-counter or prescription medicines for pain, discomfort, or fever as directed by your caregiver.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- You have increased swelling or pain or pain not relieved with medications.
- You develop chills or a fever.
- Any of your problems are getting worse rather than better.

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