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## **Clinical Consideration of Salivary Glands:**

Careful examination of a patient's medical history and profile can lead to dysfunction of the salivary glands because they are often associated with other systemic disorders such as hormonal imbalances, diabetes mellitus, arteriosclerosis, and neurological disorders.

### **For example:**

Xerostomia (dry mouth), Sialorrhea (increase salivary flow), both could result from dysfunction of the mandibular salivary center, autonomic innervations to the glands, damage to the gland itself, or imbalances in fluid and electrolyte .

### **1. Radiation caries:**

Radiation caries is a rampant form of dental decay that may occur in individuals who receive a course of radiotherapy that include exposure of salivary glands

## **Etiology**

Cariou lesions are produced due to the exposure of salivary glands and reduced flow of saliva, decreased pH, decreased buffering capacity, and increased viscosity.

## **Signs**

Superficial lesions attack the buccal, occlusal, incisal, and lingual surfaces. It includes cementum and dentin in cervical lesions. Lesions progress around the teeth circumferentially and resulting in loss of the crown.

### **2.Sjogren's syndrome:**

It consists of keratoconjunctivitis, xerostomia, and rheumatoid arthritis. The cause of the disease can be genetic, autoimmunological, etc.

Features include dry mouth and dry eyes due to hypofunction of lacrimal and salivary glands. Most patients are treated symptomatically; ocular lubricants and salivary substitutes are given.

### **3.Xerostomia (dry mouth):**

It is defined as a subjective complaint of dry mouth that may result from a decrease in the production of saliva. It is not a disease but a symptom caused by many factors.

### **Etiology**

Sjogren's syndrome

Therapeutic radiation of head and neck

Surgical removal of salivary glands

Diabetes mellitus

Acute viral infections involving salivary glands result in temporary xerostomia

Anxiety, mental stress, and depression may temporarily decrease salivary flow

### **Symptoms**

Oral dryness (most common)

Halitosis

Burning sensation

Loss of sense of taste or bizarre taste

Difficulty in swallowing

Tongue tends to stick to the palate

Decreased retention of denture

## Signs

Saliva pool disappears

Mucosa becomes dry

Tongue shows glossitis and fissured with papilla atrophy

Angular cheilitis

Rampant caries at the cervical or cusp tip

Periodontitis

Candidiasis