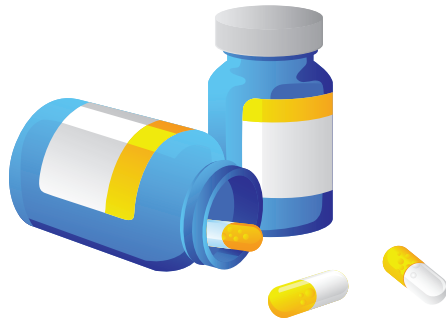


How Medicine May Affect Your Mouth

Whether you're taking prescription drugs or herbal supplements, medication can take a toll on your teeth.



Overgrowth of gum tissue

Gingival enlargement causes painful, inflamed gums that grow over the teeth.

Caused by: anti-seizure medications, immunosuppressant drugs given after organ transplants, calcium channel blockers (used to treat high blood pressure, migraines and Raynaud's syndrome)

Cavities

Sugar in medication can put your teeth at risk.

Caused by: cough syrups, cough drops, vitamins, antacid tablets, liquid medications

Mouth ulcers

These painful sores generally appear on the inside of the cheeks.

Caused by: ibuprofen, aspirin, beta blockers (used to prevent heart attacks and treat hypertension), nicorandil (used to treat chest pain), penicillin, chemotherapy drugs

Abnormal bleeding

Blood-thinning medications can cause problems during oral surgery, gum treatment or even flossing.

Caused by: aspirin, anti-stroke and heart disease medications

Dry mouth

A decrease in saliva increases your risk of oral infections and tooth decay.

Caused by: antidepressants, antihistamines, asthma inhalers, diuretics, anti-anxiety drugs, anticonvulsants, decongestants, muscle relaxants, narcotic painkillers

Loss of bone tissue

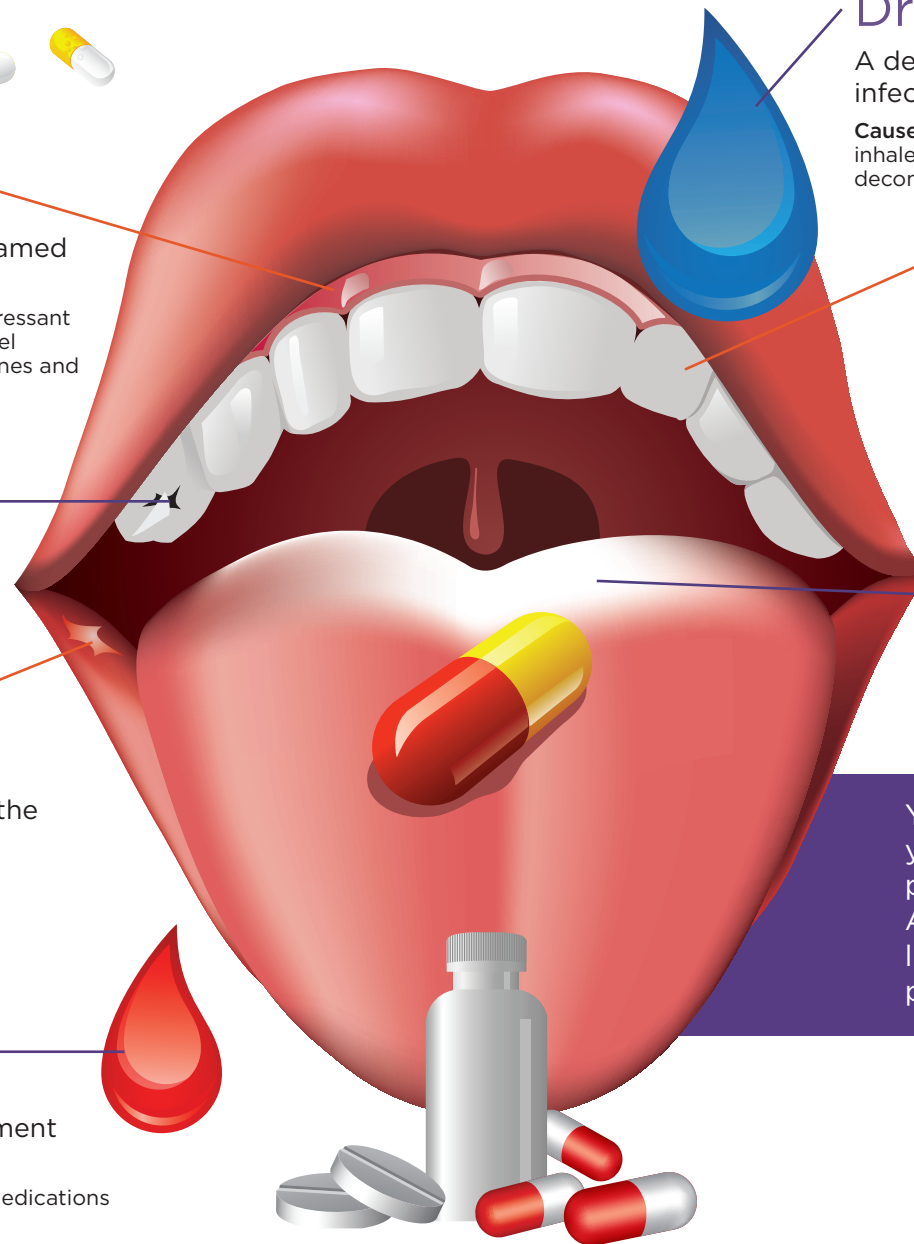
By leaching minerals from your bone, some medications can increase your chance of losing teeth.

Caused by: bisphosphonates (used to treat cancer and prevent osteoporosis), antacids that contain aluminum, steroids, anti-seizure medications, antidepressants, hormone blockers (used to treat hormone-linked cancers and endometriosis)

Thrush

Yeast infections of the mouth appear as white fungus on the tongue and throat.

Caused by: antibiotics, birth control pills, corticosteroids



Your dentist will be able to help you minimize these side effects and prevent damage to your oral health. Always give your dentist a complete list of medications you're taking, both prescription and over-the-counter.



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