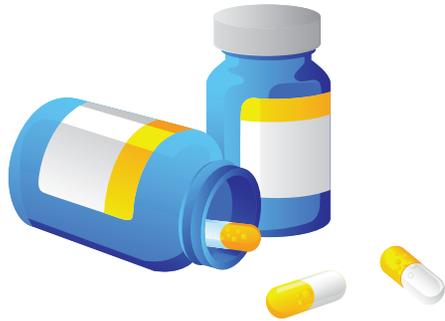


# How Medicine May Affect Your Mouth

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

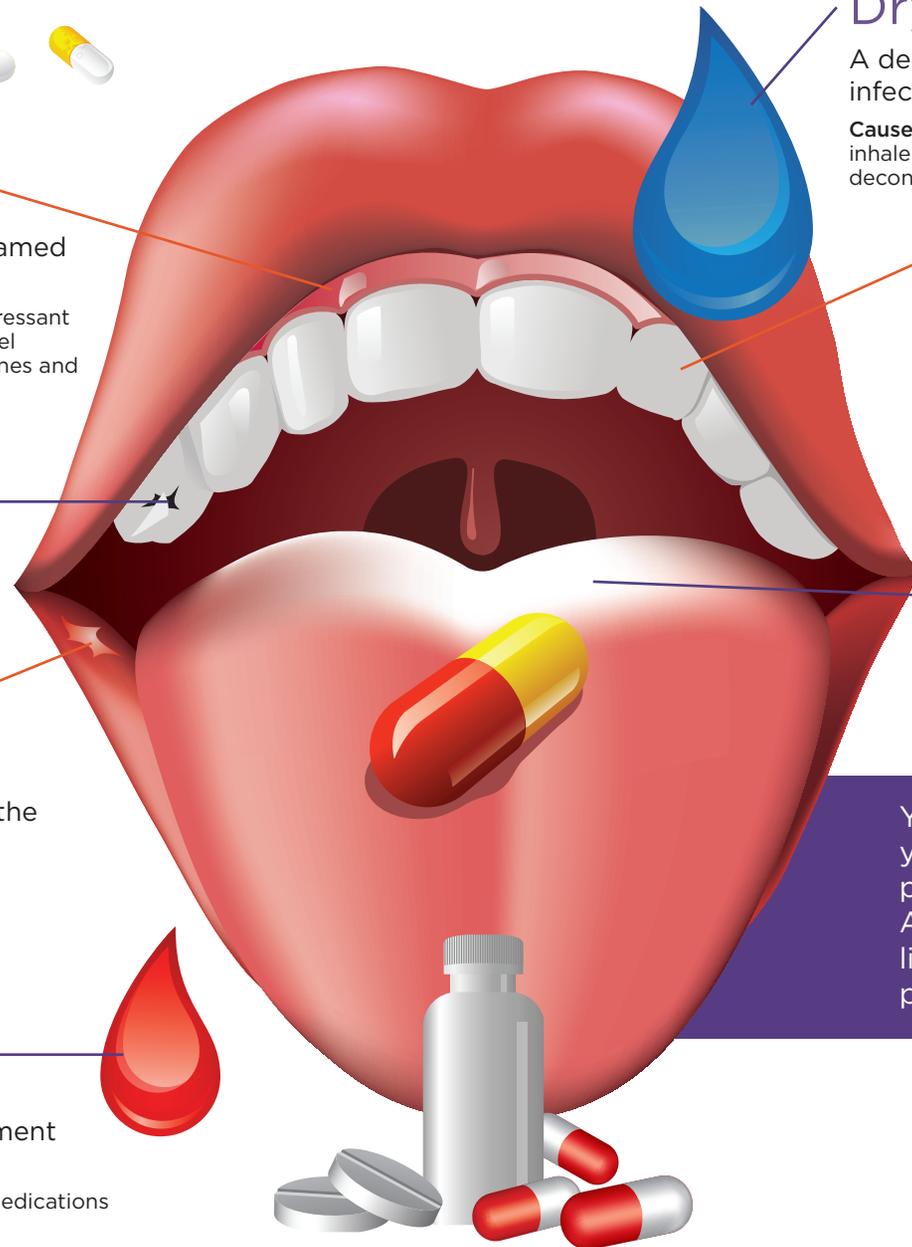
By leaching minerals from your bone, some medications can increase your chance of losing teeth.

**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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