

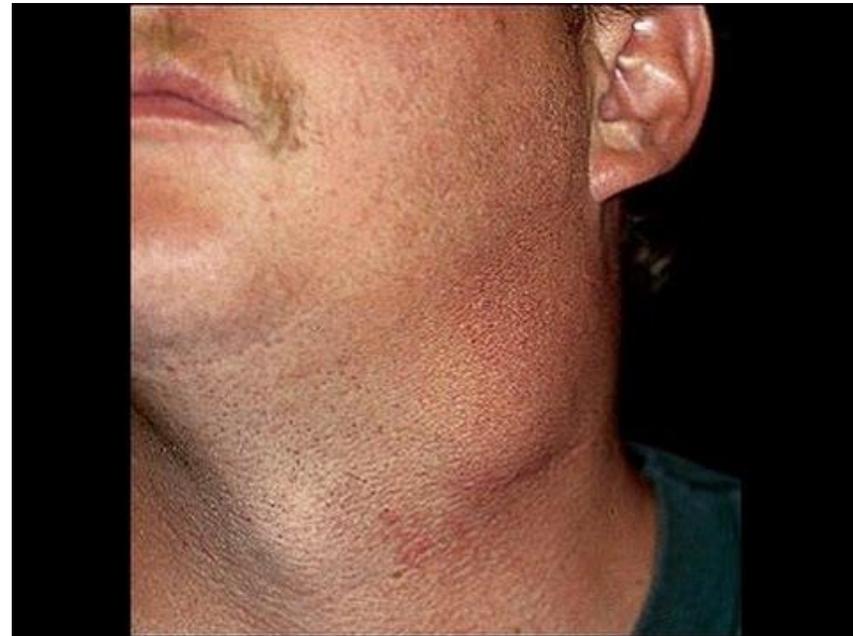
Lymphadenopathy

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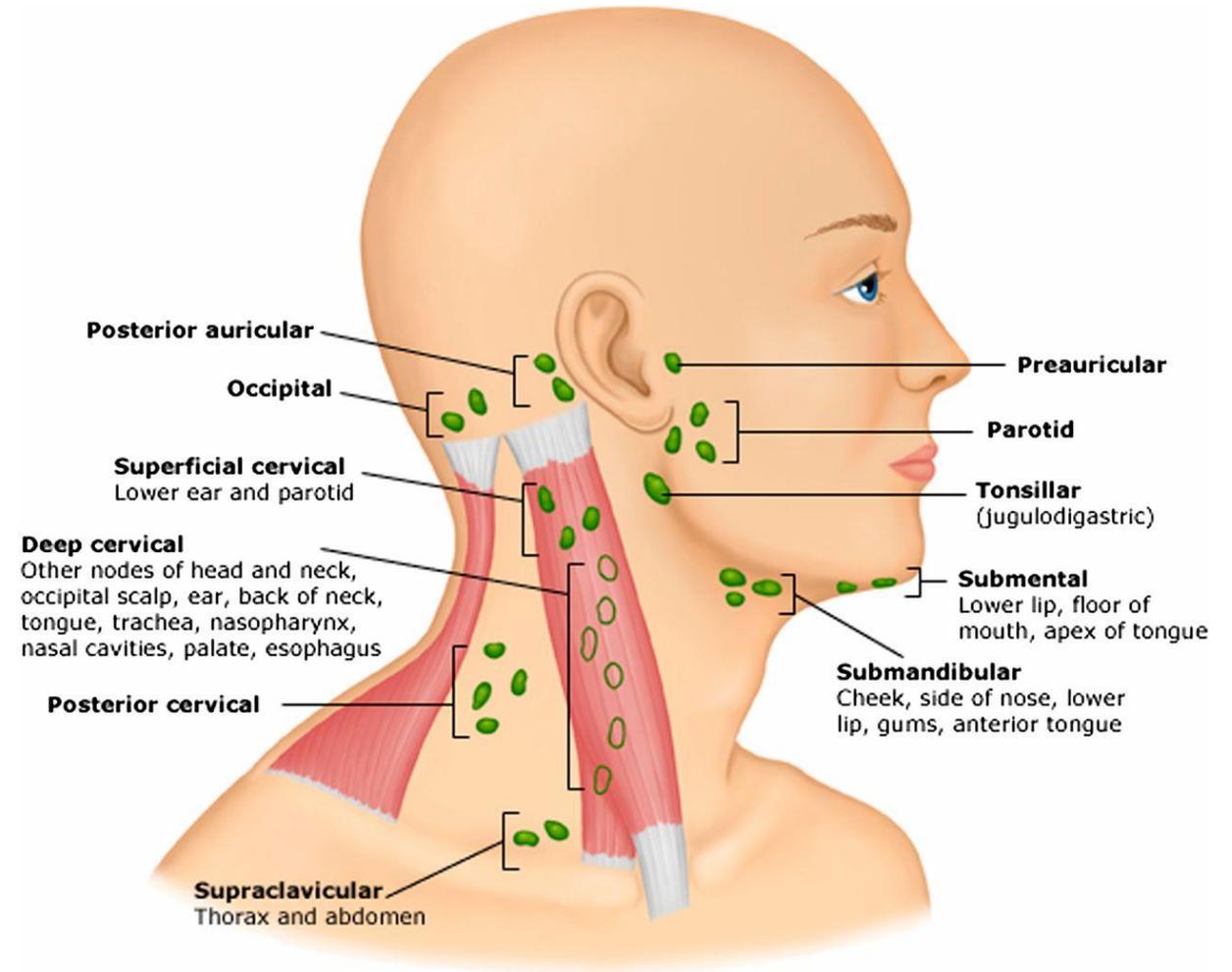
Lymphadenopathy

- Are enlarged and palpable lymph nodes
- They are abnormal in: *size, number* and *consistency*



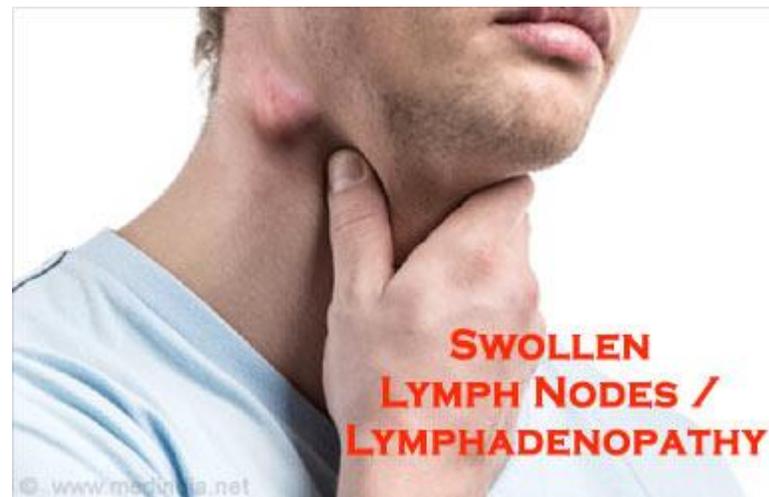
When a patient has an active disease process (such as cancer or infection) in a specific region, the region's lymph nodes respond.

The resultant enlarged lymph node with its change in consistency of its lymphoid tissue is from the process of **Lymphadenopathy**.



Etiology...What causes it?

- Lymphadenopathy is due to both an increase in the size of each individual lymphocyte and the overall cell count in the lymphoid tissue.
- With more larger lymphocytes within the lymph node itself, the lymphoid tissue is better able to fight the disease process.



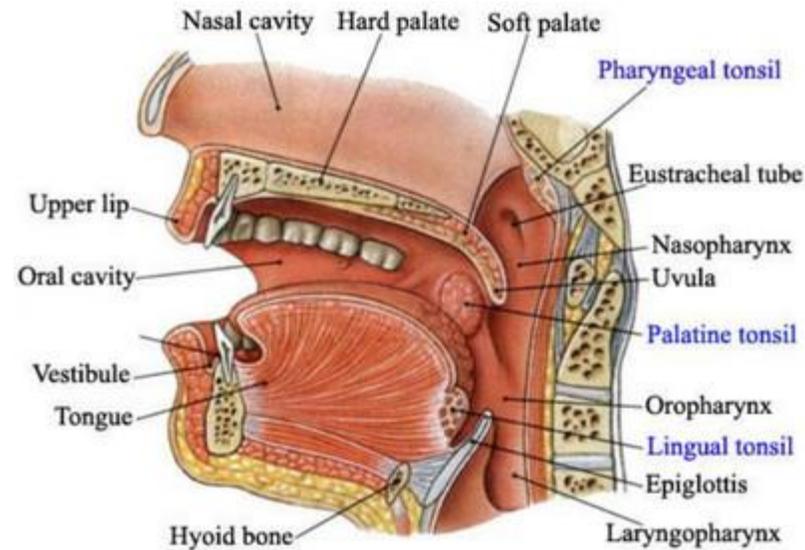
Palpation: Extraoral Examination



- The presence of lymphadenopathy allows the nodes to now be easily palpated during an extraoral examination.
- The node is not only more visible but you can feel a change in consistency from soft to bony hard.
- Palpation on an involved node may be painful for the patient and the node can become fixed and attached to the surrounding tissue.

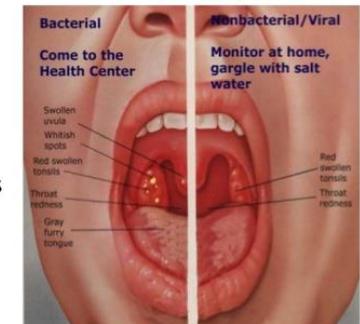
Palpation: Intraoral Examination

- Lymphadenopathy can also occur in the intraoral tonsillar tissue, causing tissue enlargement that can be viewed on an intraoral examination.
- This may cause tenderness to the patient when swallowing.
- Severe lymphadenopathy may cause airway obstruction and complications from the infection of the tonsillar tissue.

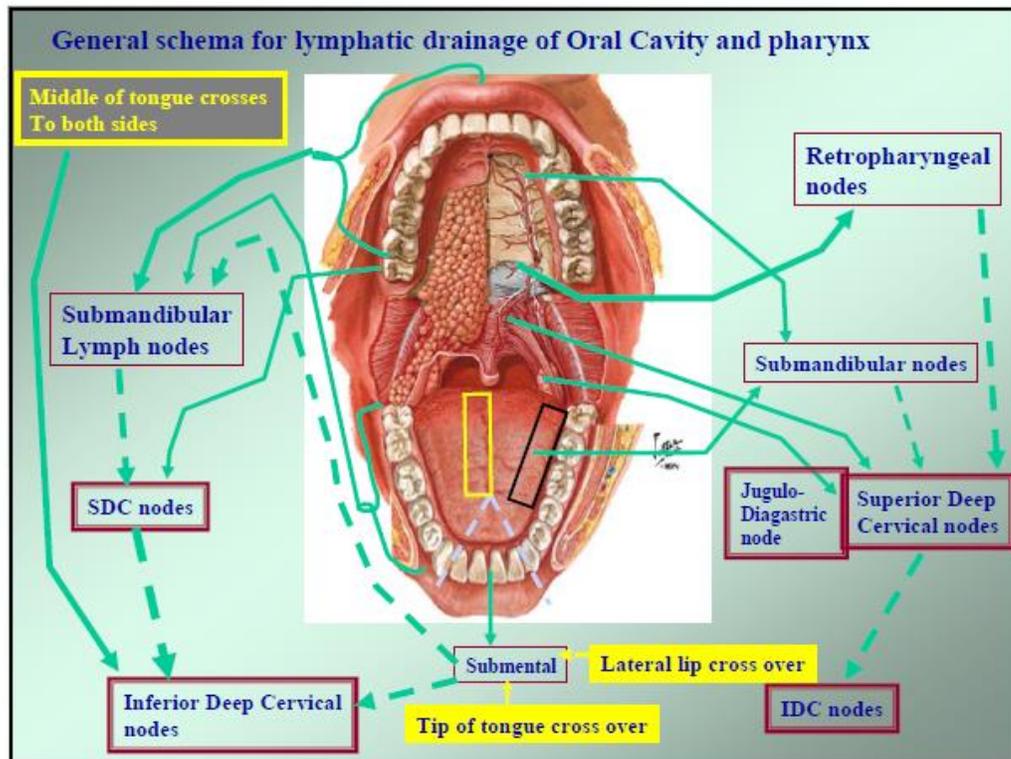


Tonsillitis

- Inflammation of the tonsils especially the palatine tonsils
- Tonsillitis :
 - Acute tonsillitis
 - Chronic tonsillitis



Lymphadenopathy and its Effects on Dental Health



- Teeth
 - Various teeth problems may cause swollen lymph nodes and the most common is a rotten tooth. The bacteria from your rotten tooth can spread by the blood stream to your lymph nodes making them feel uncomfortable. The same happens with the wisdom teeth.
- Gingivitis
 - Gingivitis is the inflammation of the gums and it's simply caused by bacteria accumulated on the teeth. This is another cause of swollen lymph nodes but only if you are suffering from its severe form. And they can spread through your mouth to the lymph nodes, causing inflammation.
- Tooth Abscess

Lymphadenopathy and the Role of a Dental Hygienist

- Conduct a thorough review of the patients medical history before performing any assessments.
- Perform consistent and thorough extraoral and intraoral examinations on ALL patients.
- Stress the importance of personal oral care and proper hygiene techniques.
- Dental Hygienist can **save lives** by bringing any abnormalities discovered to the attention of the patient and having them follow up with the appropriate medical specialist.

