

# **Lymphadenopathy**

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# Lymphadenopathy

Lymphoid tissue

lymph nodes

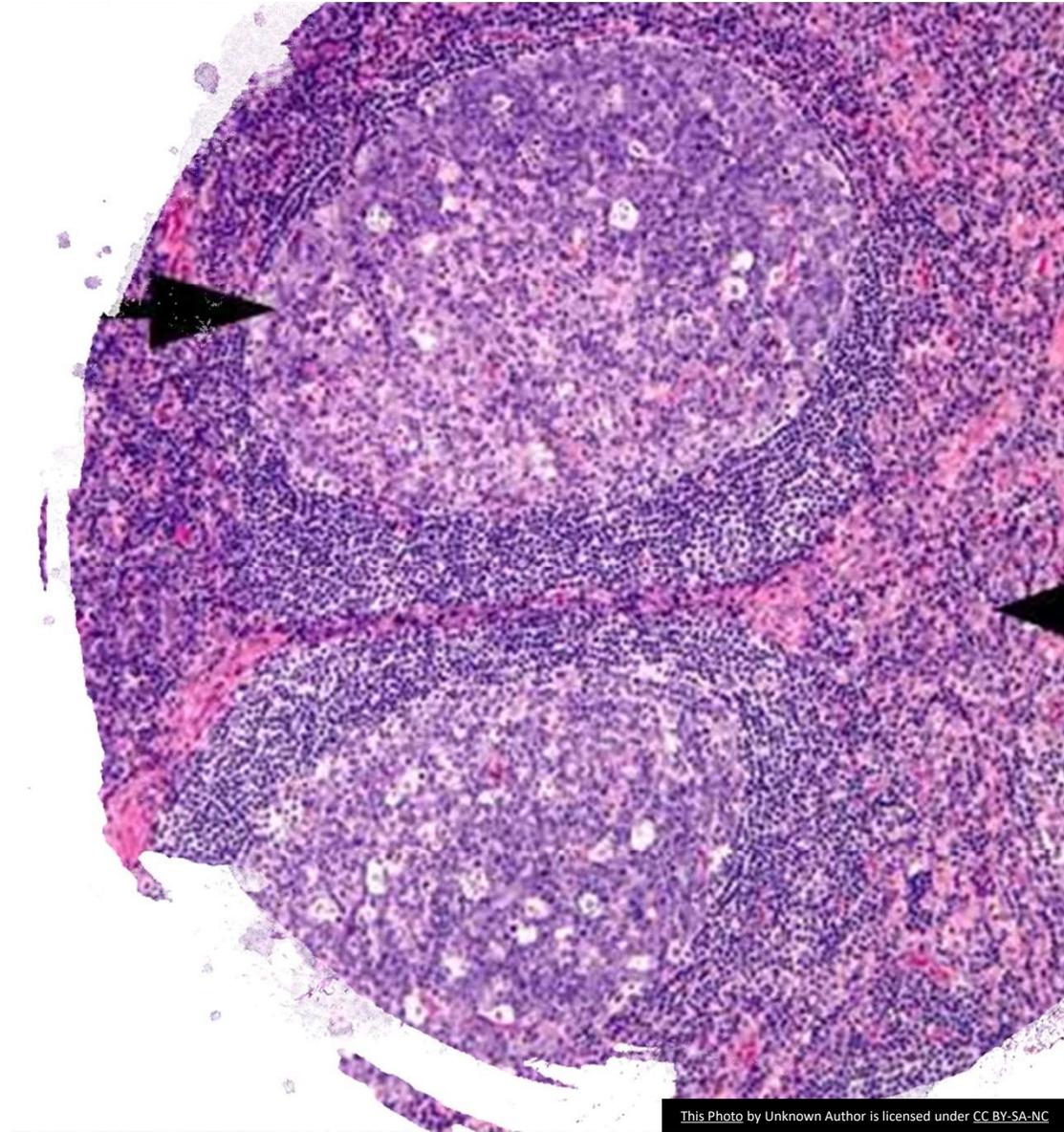


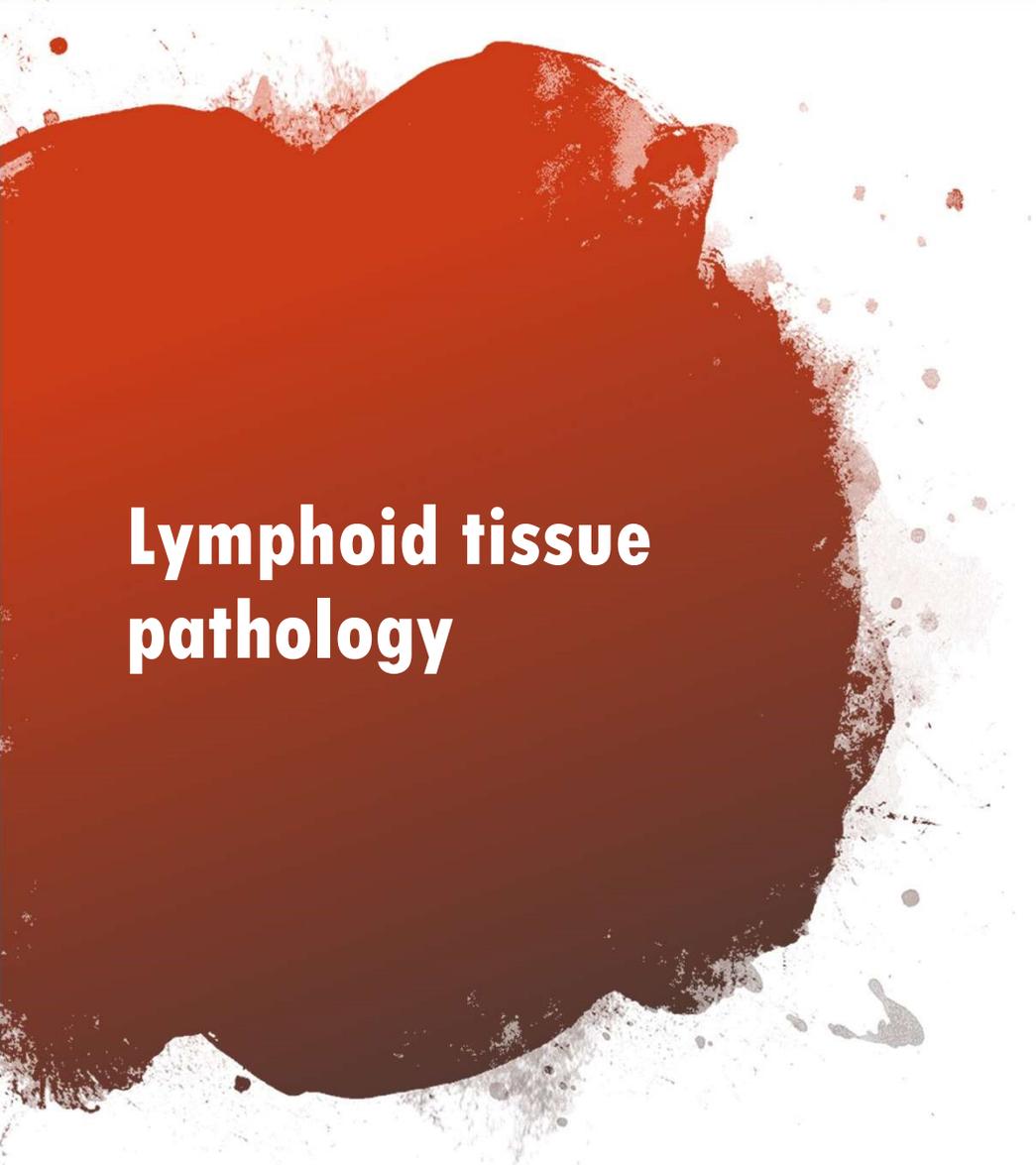
Pathology

disease

# Lymph node histology

- Composed of organized **lymphoid tissue**
- Contains **lymphocytes** that filter toxins
- Surrounded by bands of **trabeculae** (connective tissue), separating the node into masses of **lymphatic nodules** (lymphatic follicles)
- Each nodule has a **germinal center** containing immature lymphocytes





## Lymphoid tissue pathology

- Arises during an active disease process (i.e. cancer or infection)
- Results in lymph node response: *enlargement, change in consistency*
- The process of **lymphadenopathy** is due to *increases in size* of the lymphocytes and lymphoid tissue *cell count*

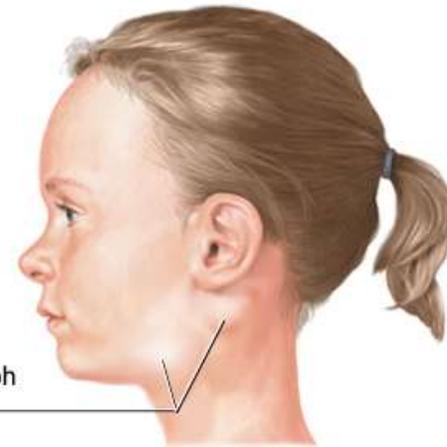
# Causes of lymphadenopathy



non-Hodgkin's lymphoma  
a **cancer** of the lymph nodes

Mononucleosis  
causes:

- Fever
- Fatigue
- Sore throat
- Swollen lymph glands



Mononucleosis  
commonly known as mono or kissing disease  
an **infection** with the Epstein-Barr virus

With more and larger lymphocytes in the lymph node,  
the lymphoid tissue is better able to fight the disease process



Lymph nodes are more easily palpable



Consistency may change from firm to bony hard

## **Clinical considerations**

# More clinical considerations



Can occur in the intraoral  
tonsillar tissue



Tonsils may be tender  
when swallowing

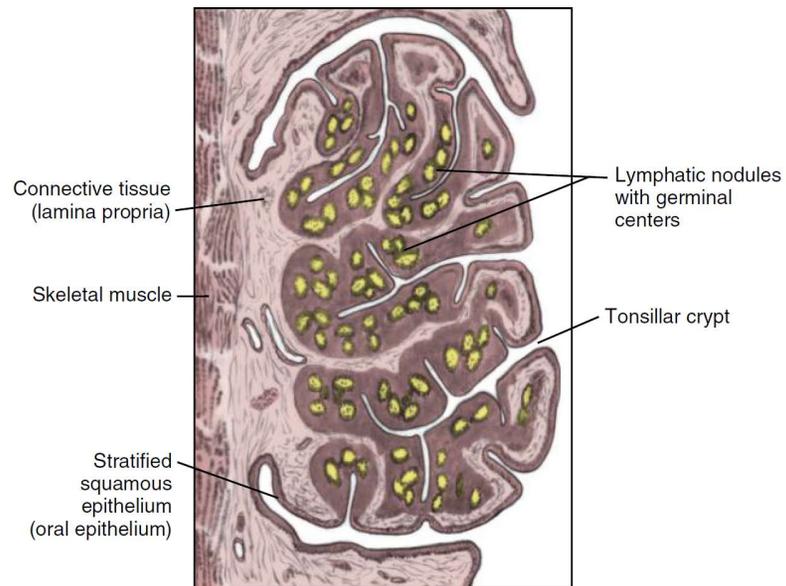


May cause airway obstruction  
and complications from infection

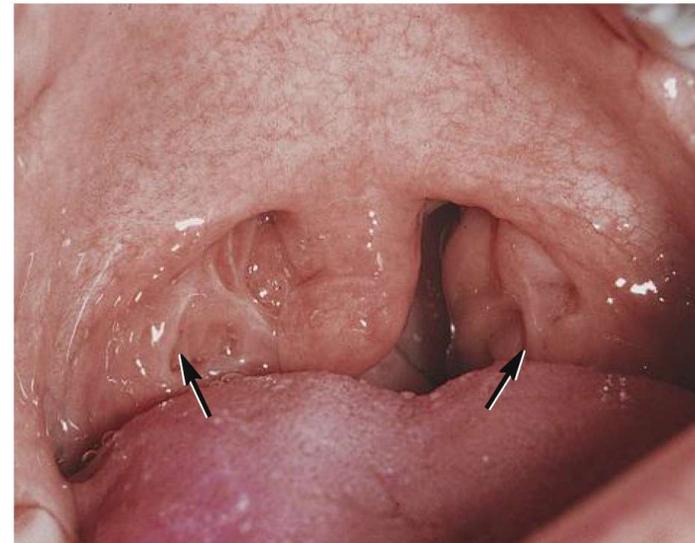


Findings should be recorded and  
medical referral should be made

# Lymphadenopathy of the palatine tonsils



**FIGURE 11-17** Histology of the palatine tonsils.

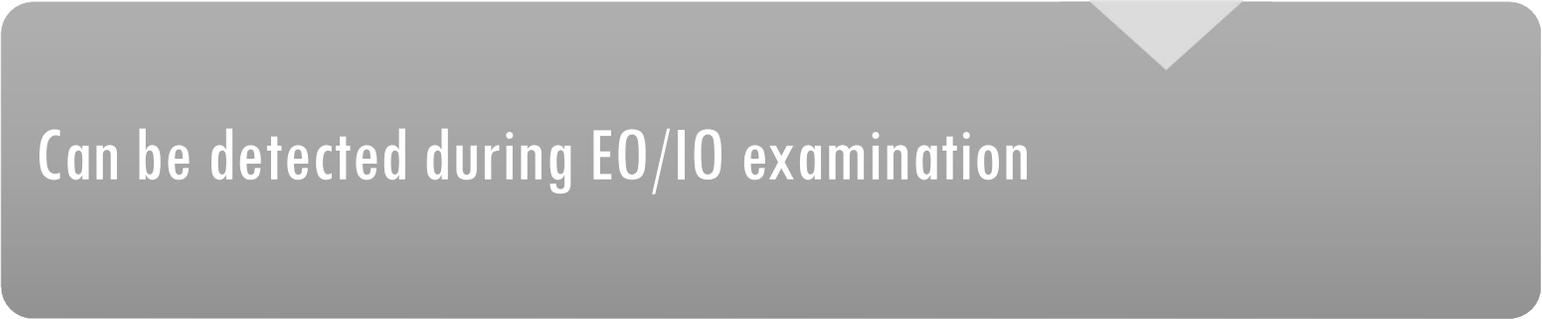


**FIGURE 11-18** Lymphadenopathy of the palatine tonsils (*arrows*) showing enlargement. (From Fehrenbach MJ, Herring SW: *Illustrated anatomy of the head and neck*, ed 4, Philadelphia, 2012, Saunders/Elsevier.)

Triggered with the development or progression of periodontal disease



Can be detected during EO/IO examination



**Lymphadenopathy in the dental setting**



# References

Margaret J. Fehrenbach, R. M. (2016). *Illustrated Dental Embryology, Histology, and Anatomy, Fourth Edition*. Maryland Heights, Missouri: Elsevier Saunders.

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