

Lymphadenopathy

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What is Lymphadenopathy?

- **Enlarged and palpable lymph nodes.**
- **An increase in size and change in consistency of the lymphoid tissue.**



Causes of Lymphadenopathy

- Immune System Disorders
- Infectious Disease (Viral / Bacterial)
- Cancer
- Odontogenic





LYMPHADENOPATHY CAN ALSO OCCUR IN THE INTRAORAL TONSILLAR TISSUE.

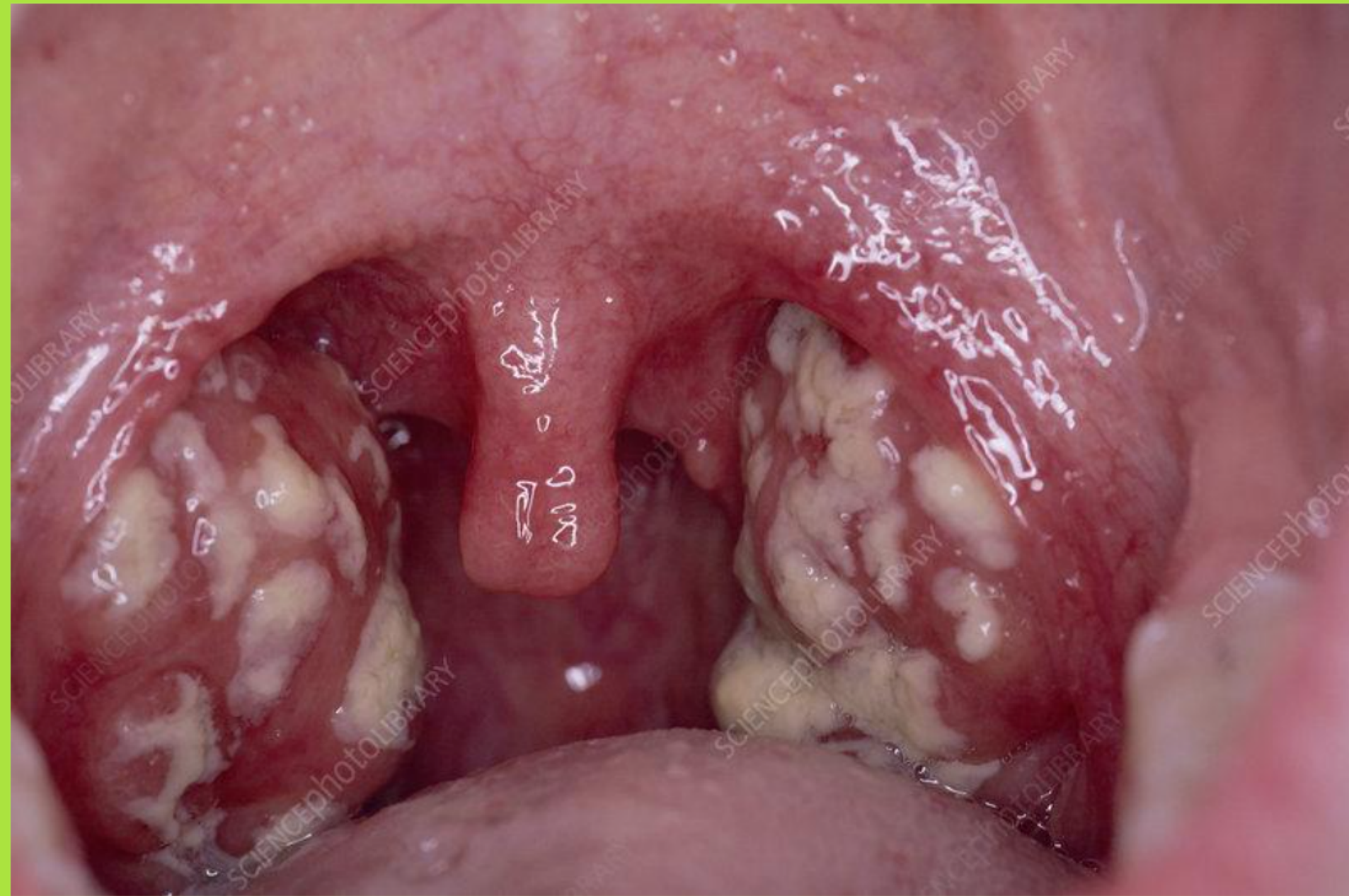
- ❖ Patient concerns are obstruction of airways.
- ❖ Intraoral tonsils can be painful & tender.
- ❖ The enlarged lymph nodes can be inspected during intra/ extra oral examination.

Impact on the Patient

- ❖ Healthy lymph nodes cannot be palpated during an extraoral examination.
- ❖ When lymphadenopathy occurs (swollen), the lymph nodes become apparent during extraoral examination.
- ❖ Consistency of lymph nodes can change from firm to bony hard and attach to surrounding tissue.
- ❖ Lymphadenopathy is an indicator that the patient is developing an abnormality or disturbance.



Role of the Dental Team



- ★ **Dental Professionals must have a clear understanding of the head and neck including the oral cavity.**
- ★ **Identify any abnormalities and pathologies.**
- ★ **Findings of abnormalities should be recorded in the patients records and be given appropriate referral.**
- ★ **Dental Professionals may potentially save a patient's life by encouraging them to seek proper treatment.**

Sources

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