

LYMPHADENOPATHY

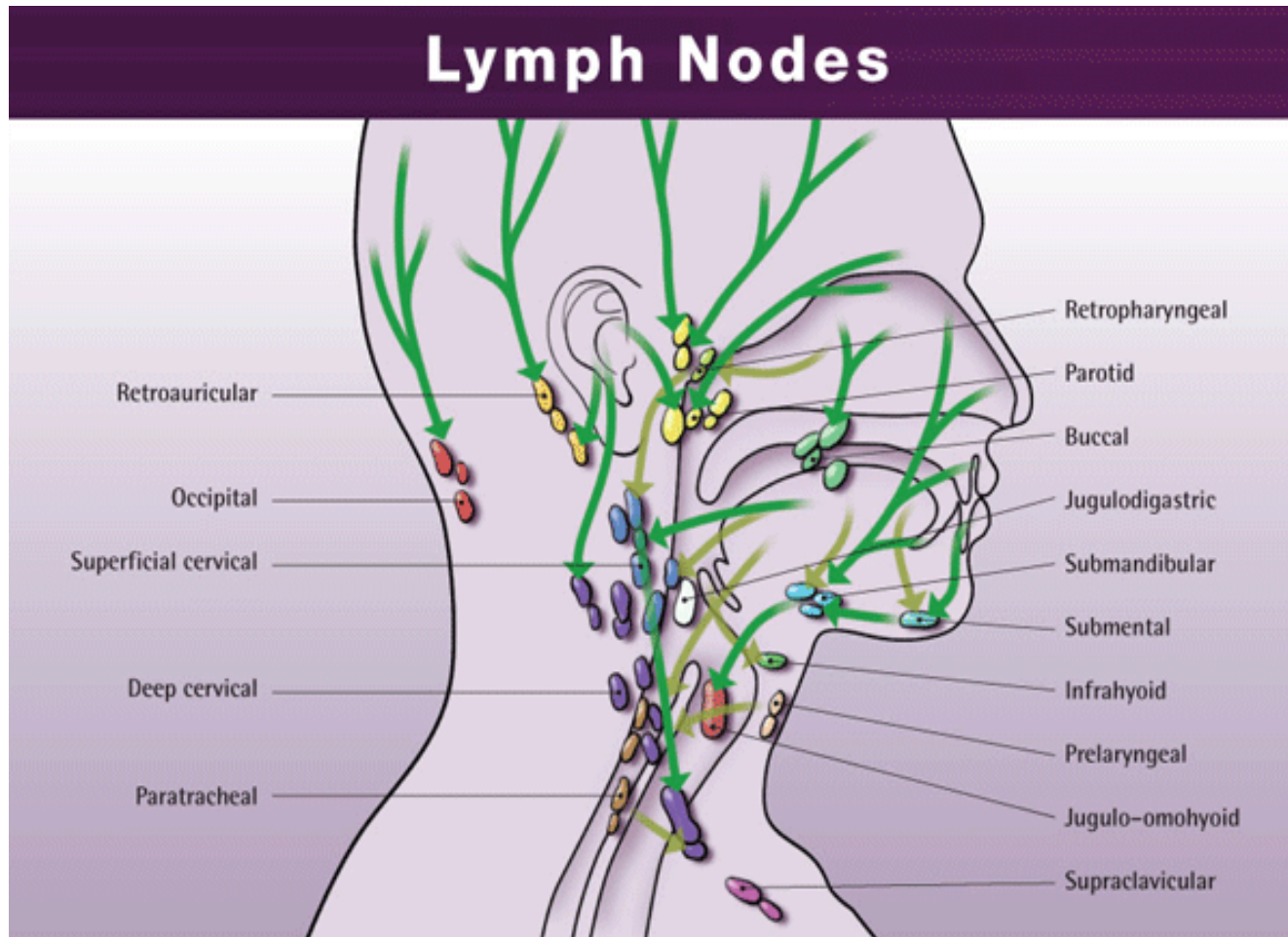
Tara Gallo

D219

WHAT IS LYMPHADENOPATHY?

- ◉ A chronic, abnormal enlargement of the lymph nodes
- ◉ Lymph nodes are small, bean-shaped glands throughout the body
- ◉ They carry fluid, nutrients, and waste material between the body tissues and the bloodstream
- ◉ May be found singly or in groups

LYMPH NODES OF THE HEAD AND NECK



ETIOLOGY

- ◉ Lymph nodes become swollen when they are active either due to an infection, inflammation, or cancer

Infections:

- ◉ Viral, bacterial, parasites, or fungal.
- ◉ Viral upper respiratory infection (common cold) is the most common cause

Inflammation:

- ◉ Rheumatoid arthritis
- ◉ Lupus
- ◉ Sensitivity to medication

ETIOLOGY CONT'D

Cancer:

- ◉ May be cancer that originates from the lymph nodes or blood cells such as lymphoma or leukemia
- ◉ May also be from cancer that spread from another organ of the body

NORMAL VS. ABNORMAL



Normal Lymph Node



Abnormal Lymph Nodes

SYMPTOMS

- ◉ May be asymptomatic and only found during a general physical examination
- ◉ Can also be extremely **tender, painful, and disfiguring**
- ◉ Other symptoms may occur such as:
 - Runny nose, sore throat, fever indicating an upper respiratory infection
 - General swelling of lymph nodes throughout your body indicating an infection, such as HIV or mononucleosis, or an immune disorder, such as lupus or rheumatoid arthritis.

WHAT POINT IN THE DEVELOPMENTAL PROCESS DOES THIS OCCUR?

- ◉ Swollen glands commonly develop when the body attempts to fight an infection
- ◉ When bacteria is recognized in the lymph fluid, the lymph nodes make more infection-fighting white blood cells, which causes the nodes to swell

NECK LYMPHADENOPATHY ASSOCIATED WITH INFECTIOUS MONONUCLEOSIS



HOW DOES LYMPHADENOPATHY AFFECT THE PATIENT DENTALLY?

- ⦿ Patients with enlarged lymph nodes may experience difficulty swallowing and breathing
- ⦿ Patients may also feel discomfort during both intraoral and extraoral examinations due to the tenderness of the lymph nodes

PAROTID LYMPH NODE ENLARGEMENT



THE ROLE OF THE DENTAL TEAM

- ◉ The dental hygienist is responsible to recognize any abnormalities in the oral cavity.
- ◉ Lymphadenopathy can be noticed during palpitation of an extraoral examination or even seen during an intraoral examination.
- ◉ The enlargement of the lymph nodes indicates an infection and the dental hygienist should refer the patient for appropriate care before any dental treatment is done.