

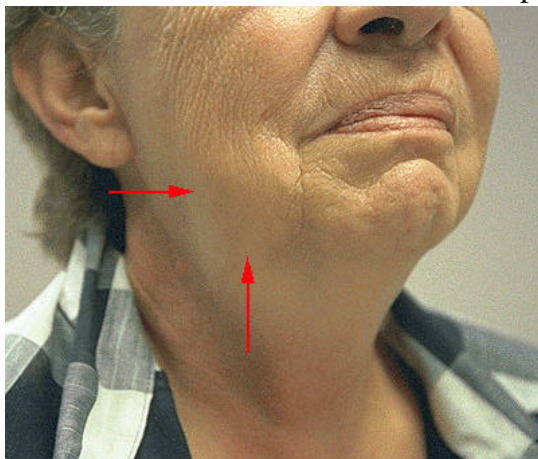
Mumps (Parotitis)

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Definition

Mumps is a relatively mild, short-term viral infection of the salivary glands that usually occurs during childhood. Typically, mumps is characterized by a painful swelling of both cheek areas, although the person could have swelling on one side or no perceivable swelling at all. The salivary glands are also called the parotid glands; therefore, mumps is sometimes referred to as an inflammation of the parotid glands.



Causes and Incidence

Mumps is a very contagious infection that spreads easily in highly populated areas, such as schools. Mumps is most contagious during the late winter and early spring. The mumps virus lives in the saliva of the affected patient and is carried in droplets or by direct contact. The causative agent is the paramyxovirus. It is most communicable immediately before and during the glandular swelling. Mumps is most often seen in children 5 to 15 years of age, although it may occur at any age. Adults are more likely to have a severe course of the disease. Permanent immunity occurs after infection.

Disease Process

The virus that causes mumps is harbored in the saliva and is spread through sneezing, coughing, and other direct contact with another person's infected saliva. After a 2- to 3-week incubation period, the virus invades one or more salivary glands, causing tissue edema and infiltration of lymphocytes. Initial symptoms include chills, headache, loss of appetite, and a lack of energy. However, an infected person may not experience these initial symptoms. Swelling of the salivary glands in the face (parotitis) generally occurs within 12-24 hours of the above symptoms. A fever as high as 104°F is also common.

Swelling of the glands reaches a maximum on about the second day and usually disappears by the seventh day. Once a person has contracted mumps, he or she becomes immune to the disease, despite how mild or severe symptoms may have been. Cells in the glandular ducts degenerate and produce necrotic debris, which plugs the ducts.

Potential Complications

Occasionally, particularly in adults, other glands in the testes, ovaries, breasts, and thyroid are involved, and the disease course is often more severe. Complications include meningoencephalitis, pericarditis, deafness, arthritis, nephritis, and in rare cases sterility in men.

Diagnostic Tests

Characteristic swelling plus positive cell cultures from saliva or urine.

Treatment

The treatment of mumps includes keeping the patient isolated.

Homoeopathic Remedies

The most common Homoeopathic Medicines used for Mumps are:

Belladonna: Inflammation of right parotid with bright redness and violent shooting pains. Glowing redness of face. Sensitive to cold.

Mercurius: Mumps, especially right side. Offensive salivation. Foul tongue, and offensive sweat. (Merc. corr.).

Phytolacca : Inflammation of sub-maxillary and parotid glands with stony hardness. Pain shoots into ear when swallowing. Worse cold and wet.

Pulsatilla: Lingering fever, or metastases (Carbo veg.; Abrot.). If in mumps the patient gets a cold, the breasts swells in girls, the testicles in boys.

Rhus Tox: Parotid and sub-maxillary glands highly inflamed and enlarged. Mumps on left side.

Jaborandi: Dr. Burnett's homoeopathic remedy for mumps seems to surpass all the rest, i.e. Pilocarpus. It acts very quickly, and also relieves the pain. Moreover, Pilocarpus has a reputation for the metastases in which mumps excels, whether to testes or mammae; when the swelling suddenly subsides, as the result of a chill, and worse troubles supervene. Pilocarpus also acts as a prophylactic.

Warning

The above given information of the disease is for the general awareness of the commoners. Homoeopathic medicines referred here should not be taken without consulting your Homoeopathic physician.