

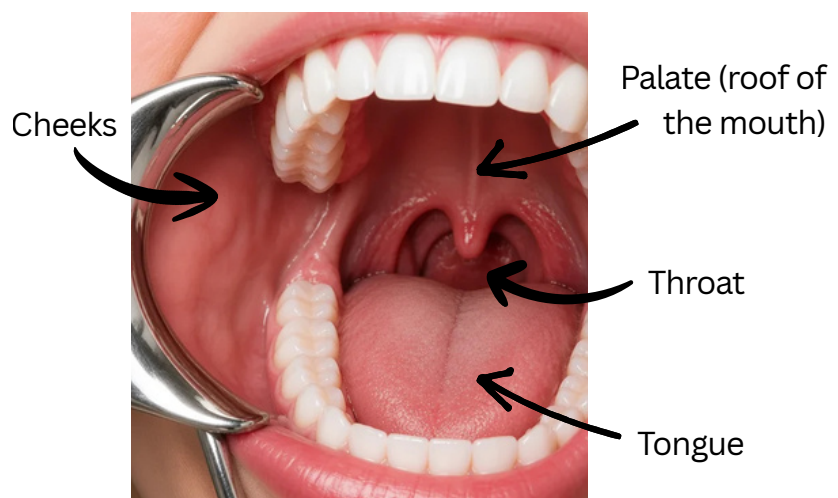
Oral Candidiasis (also called thrush) is a common fungal infection in the mouth.

Oral candidiasis is more common in older adults, especially when certain risk factors are present. It can occur with other mouth problems, such as denture stomatitis (irritation from dentures) and angular cheilitis (cracks at the corners of the lips).

Risk Factors:

- Poor daily oral hygiene (practice of keeping the mouth healthy, e.g., brushing)
- Wearing dentures all the time without taking them out
- Dry mouth (less saliva)
- Using inhaled corticosteroids (inhalers)
- Smoking and tobacco use
- Some health conditions (e.g., diabetes, HIV/AIDS, hypothyroidism)
- Cancer treatment (i.e., chemotherapy or radiation)
- Some medications (e.g., antibiotics)

Common Affected Areas in the Mouth:



Most Common Signs & Symptoms:

- White patches, redness and/or a burning feeling in the mouth
- Sores or cracks in the corners of the lips

See a healthcare professional if you notice any of these symptoms. Getting help early can stop the infection from getting worse.



How to Help:

- Practice good daily oral hygiene
- Remove denture(s) before sleeping, or for at least 5 hours in a row every day
- Use prescribed antifungal medication

How to Lower the Risk:

- Practice good daily oral hygiene and denture care
- Remove your denture(s) before sleeping, or for at least 5 hours in a row every day
- Prevent dry mouth by staying hydrated (taking in enough fluid) or using saliva substitutes
- Replace your toothbrush after the infection is gone to keep it from coming back

