

Angular Cheilitis

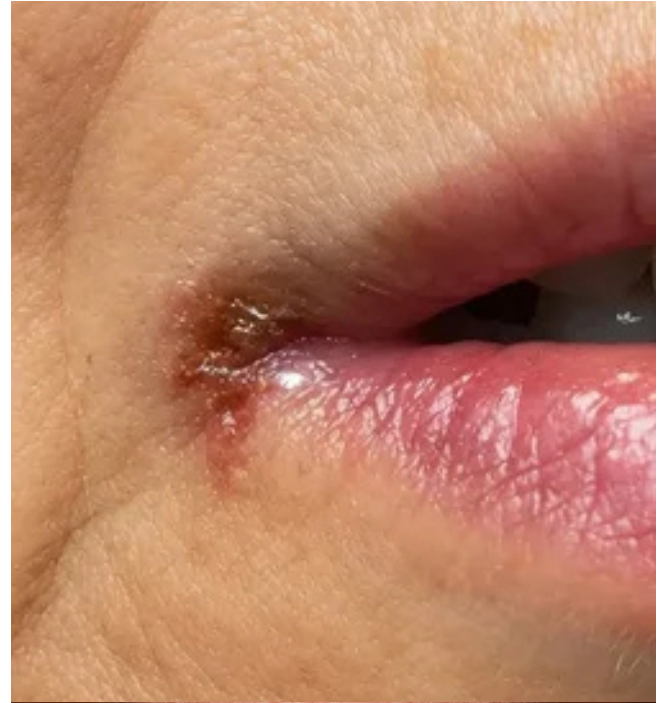
Angular Cheilitis is a common oral (mouth) condition that causes painful sores at the corners of the mouth.

Angular cheilitis is caused by an overgrowth of germs that lead to infection.

Risk Factors Include:

- Breathing through the mouth
- Changes in skin elasticity (e.g., with age)
- Dentures that do not fit well
- Changes in the mouth (e.g., tooth loss)
- Oral infections (e.g., thrush)
- Dry mouth (less saliva)
- Tobacco use

Other causes include allergies, a weak immune system, poor nutrition, radiation, some medications, or injury.



Signs & Symptoms:

- Swelling, sores, and painful cracking at the corners of the mouth

Seek Care If:

- Symptoms do not improve in 2-4 weeks
- Symptoms keep coming back or worsen
- Eating, drinking, or speaking become difficult



How to Help:

- Use prescribed antimicrobial ointments
- Monitor fluid intake (take in enough liquids)

How to Lower the Risk:

- Good daily oral hygiene (practice of keeping the mouth healthy, e.g., brushing)
- Take in enough fluid
- Make sure dentures fit well

