



Salivary mucoceles

This leaflet has been designed to improve your understanding of your problem and explain any treatment, if necessary. If you have any other questions that the leaflet does not answer or would like further explanation, please ask.

What is a salivary mucocele?

A salivary mucocele is a cyst that arises following a blockage of a small salivary gland.

They are common and are usually superficial.

Mucoceles mainly appear in the lip but can also occur in the floor and roof of the mouth. They appear as a bluish/translucent swelling just under the lining of the mouth. They may have a history of bursting, collapsing then refilling which may be repeated.

What is the treatment?

The treatment of choice is surgical removal of the cyst and blocked salivary gland. However, if the mucocele is small and doesn't cause any problems it can be left alone with no surgical intervention.

Contacting us

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Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.

RBFT Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, May 2026

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