

Gingivostomatitis

Overview

Definition:

Gingivostomatitis is a viral or bacterial infection of the mouth and gums that leads to swelling and sores



Overview

Causes

- Gingivostomatitis is common, particularly among children. It may occur after infection with the herpes simplex virus type 1 (HSV-1), which also causes cold sores.



Source: *Pediatr Nurs* © 2003 Jannetti Publications, Inc.

Overview

- The condition may also occur after infection with a coxsackie virus.



Overview

- It may occur in children with poor oral hygiene.



Symptoms

The symptoms can be mild or severe and may include:

- Bad breath
- Fever
- General discomfort, uneasiness, or ill feeling (malaise)
- Sores on the inside of the cheeks or gums
- Very sore mouth with no desire to eat

Treatment

- The goal is to reduce symptoms. Practice good oral hygiene. Even if there is bleeding and it is painful, thorough but gentle brushing of the gums is important to reduce the chances of additional infection from normal mouth bacteria.



Treatment

- Antibiotics may be required. The dentist may need to clean infected tissue (a process called debridement).
- Medicated mouth rinses may be recommended to reduce pain. Salt water (one-half teaspoon of salt in one cup of water) or over-the-counter mouthwashes like hydrogen peroxide or Xylocaine may be soothing.

Prognosis

Gingivostomatitis infections range from mild and slightly uncomfortable to severe and painful.

The sores generally resolve in **2 or 3 weeks** with or without treatment.

Treatment may reduce discomfort and speed healing.

A close-up photograph of a baby's face, showing wide, light-colored eyes and an open mouth in a surprised or excited expression. The baby's skin is fair, and the background is a soft, out-of-focus light color.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION