

## In Dermatology

### ANGULAR CHEILITIS

It is a common inflammatory condition affecting the corners of the mouth or oral commissures (see image below). Depending on underlying causes, it may last a few days or persist indefinitely. It is also called angular stomatitis, cheilosis and perlèche.

***Angular cheilitis is due to one or more of the following factors:***

- A dribble of saliva causing a form of irritant dermatitis
- An overhang of upper lip resulting in deep furrows (marionette lines)
- Dry chapped lips
- Poor nutrition.

In many cases, no treatment is needed and angular cheilitis resolves by itself. Depending on the specific cause, the following treatments may be useful: emollient ointment, applied frequently, topical antiseptics, topical steroid ointment and nutritional supplements.



***Prof. Jayakar Thomas,  
Dermatologist, Chennai***