



The Medical **Bulletin**

Dentistry

A Patient with Early and Rampant Dental Caries May Have Sjögren Syndrome

Sjögren syndrome is an autoimmune disease manifested chiefly as dry eyes (keratoconjunctivitis sicca), dry mouth (xerostomia) and fatigue.

The dry mouth, with decreased saliva produced, leads to the formation of dental caries. This is just one more reason to examine each patient's mouth and teeth.

To quote Lindsay, “For one mistake made for not knowing, ten mistakes are made for not looking”.

Ask these patients how they deal with the problem of dry mouth. The carious process is often hastened as patients use hard candy to relieve xerostomic symptoms.

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