

ORAL CAVITY

Structure?	Skeleton: Maxillae, palatine b's, mandible, hyoid b, temporal b's, sphenoid Roof: Hard & soft palates Floor: Soft tissues [muscular diaphragm from mylohyoid muscle & tongue] Lateral walls [cheeks]: Muscular & merge anteriorly with the lips	
Openings?	To face [anterior]: Oral fissure To pharynx [posterior]: Oropharyngeal isthmus	Palatoglossal arch: Posterior limit of oral cavity
Regions?	Oral vestibule: Horseshoe-shaped, between dental arches & surface of lips/cheeks [opened/closed by muscles of facial expression] Oral cavity proper: Enclosed by the dental arches	
Movements?	Jaws: Degree of separation of upper & lower arches established by elevating or depressing the mandible at the TMJ [see separate notes] Openings: Oropharyngeal isthmus can be opened & closed by surrounding soft tissues [incl. soft palate & tongue].	
Function?	Digestion: Inlet for the digestive system, allows initial processing of food aided by salivary gland secretion Mastication: Biting & chewing Phonation: Manipulates sounds produced by the larynx Respiration: Inlet for air, breathing - open into the pharynx	Rubber dams: Used to prevent debris passing thru oropharyngeal isthmus & pharynx into esophagus or lower airway
Innervation	Trigeminal nerve V predominantly - sensory Upper: Palate & Maxillary teeth – branches of maxillary n V₂ Lower: Mandibular teeth & oral parts of tongue – branches of mandibular n V₃ Taste (special afferent SA) = Ant 2/3 tongue – branches of facial n VII [chorda tympani] which join & are distributed by trigeminal n V Parasympathetic fibres to glands within oral cavity – branches of facial n VII distributed by trigeminal n V Sympathetic fibres in oral cavity – from spinal cord T1 distributed by trigeminal n V Muscles of tongue: all by hypoglossal n XII except palatoglossus – vagus n X Muscles of soft palate: all by vagus n X except tensor veli palatini – mandibular n V₃ which also innervates the mylohyoid m	

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Dentition

Number	Adult: 32 teeth, Child: 20 deciduous											
Grouping	Quadrants: Adult		Child									
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Charting	Adult: 1 to 8 in each quadrant [1 central incisor – 8 3 rd molar] Child: 1 to 5 in each quadrant [no premolars or 3 rd molar] FDI: Uses quadrant & tooth number e.g. adult UR central incisor = 11											
Occlusion	Manner in which upper and lower teeth come together in closed mouth											
Foundation	Attached to sockets [alveoli] in arches of maxillae and mandible											
Clinical Relevance	Extraction: If teeth are removed, the alveolar bone is resorbed and the arches disappear Supernumerary teeth: Additional teeth to normal Microdontia: Teeth appear smaller than normal Periodontitis: Gum disease Dental malocclusion: Biting surfaces of teeth do not fit together optimally – can cause facial & oral pain, biting, gum health, speech development, and good OH											
Development	Influenced by number of factors, such as heredity & shape of jaw Issues include failure to develop, adult retention of deciduous teeth, impaction [failure to erupt]											

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