# MEET YOUR MOUTH IT'S PART OF YOUR BODY





## Your Mouth and Medications

Many medications, including vitamins, minerals, and herbal preparations, can have a negative effect on your oral health. Abnormal bleeding and Reduced blood clotting is a side effect of aspirins and anticoagulants, such as heparin or warfarin.

### Taste-alerting

Some medications can cause a bitter or metallic taste and affect the ability to taste.

### Soft tissue reactions

Some medications have been linked to the development of oral sores, inflammation, or discoloration of the soft tissues in the mouth.

### **Enlarged gum tissues**

The affected gum tissue often becomes inflamed, which is a symptom of gingivitis. Your gums may be red, soft, shiny, and bleed easily when brushing or flossing.

### Dry mouth

It is often a side effect of certain medications. Saliva helps prevent tooth decay by neutralizing acids produced by bacteria, limiting bacterial growth and washing away food particles. If you don't have enough saliva and develop dry mouth, this can lead to increased plaque, tooth decay and gum disease.

### Sweetened medications

Sugar is an ingredient in many medications. Long term use of these medications may cause dental disease. This is especially important in enfants and children's medications, that are more likely sweetened.

## **More Information**

