Your Mouth and HIV/AIDS

HIV weakens your immune system, meaning you become more susceptible to infections. This can cause pain in your teeth and tooth loss.

Some of the most common oral problems for people with HIV/AIDS are:

- Dry mouth
- Canker sores
- Gingivitis
- Bone loss around the teeth (periodontitis)
- Oral warts
- Mouth ulcers
- Herpes simplex virus outbreaks
- Ulcerative periodontitis
- Fever blister
- Oral candidiasis (thrush)
- and Hairy leukoplakia (which causes a rough, white patch on the tongue)

Dental problems related to HIV may make chewing and swallowing painful. This may prevent you from properly taking your HIV medication or lead to malnutrition.

Let your doctor know if your HIV medicine is causing dry mouth or other oral side effects.

Visit your dentist regularly and give them a complete list of HIV medication.

Minnesota Oral Health Coalition