

Oral candidiasis (Oral Thrush)

Single
Point
Lesson

Oral candidiasis, also known as oral thrush that occurs in the mouth. Oral candidiasis is a mycosis (yeast/fungal infection) of *Candida* species on the mucous membranes of the mouth. Thrush (oropharyngeal candidiasis) is a medical condition in which a yeast-shaped fungus called *Candida Albicans* overgrows in the mouth and throat. For people with lowered immunity, such as from cancer treatment or HIV/AIDS, thrush can be more serious. Untreated oral thrush can lead to more-serious systemic candida infections. If you have a weakened immune system, thrush may spread to your oesophagus or other parts of your body.

Symptoms

- Creamy white bumps on the tongue, inner cheeks, gums or tonsils.
- Slight bleeding when the bumps are scraped.
- Pain at the site of the bumps.
- dry, cracked skin at the corners of the mouth.
- Difficulty swallowing.
- **Oral thrush is not considered contagious.**

If Oral Thrush is not treated it can spread to other parts of the body.



Main anti-fungal agents used for Oral Thrush

- Nystatin Suspension
- Miconazole oral Gel
- Fluconazole Oral

Further guidance (NICE): <https://cks.nice.org.uk/candida-oral#!prescribinginfo>

Who is susceptible?

- New born Babies
- Diabetics
- Drug users
- Immune compromised
- Smokers
- Those with poor diets
- Those with poor oral hygiene.

Denture stomatitis (chronic erythematous candidiasis or chronic atrophic oral candidiasis) presents with redness, and rarely soreness, in the denture-bearing area. It affects about 50–70% of denture wearers.



Denture stomatitis: visible with denture removed.

Please contact Karen Jones or the infection control team on 01744 457314/01744 457312 if you require any additional advice/support.