



# GREAT SMILES

PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY & ORTHODONTICS

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## Oral Mucocele



An oral mucocele is a harmless, fluid-containing (cyst-like) swelling of the lip or the mucosal lining of the mouth. The swelling occurs from a blockage of a small salivary gland. The salivary gland is unable to release its secretions into the mouth so it leaks into the soft tissue causing an elevated lesion.

Mucoceles occur most commonly in children or young adults. The lesion usually occurs after some sort of trauma or lip biting incident.

Mucoceles usually occur on the lower lip and inner part of the cheek, as these are frequent places for mouth trauma; but mucoceles can occur anywhere inside the mouth. A mucocele is usually a single bump with a slight bluish or normal skin color. The lesion can vary in size from ½ to 1 inch. A mucocele is usually soft and painless.

Many mucoceles will go away on their own in 3-6 weeks. A patient should avoid the habit of chewing or sucking on the lips or cheek when a mucocele is present.

See your pediatric dentist if the bump persists for over 2 months or if it is growing, bleeding or interfering with talking and chewing, or becomes painful. One of our doctors can discuss indications and techniques for removal.