## Did You Know? Your Medications Can Cause Dry Mouth

## It's A Side-Effect For 400+ Medications!

Both prescription and over-the-counter medications frequently reduce saliva production. While saliva is 99% water, it also contains lubricants that help fight infection as well as enzymes and proteins that help you digest food.

Insufficient saliva causes the soft tissues of the mouth to become irritated, making them inflamed and more susceptible to infection. Additionally, without saliva to wash away food debris and neutralize the acids produced by plaque, your teeth are more susceptible to tooth decay.

The most common symptoms include:

- A dry, sticky feeling in the mouth or throat
- Insufficient saliva
- Saliva that feels thick or is stringy
- A rough, dry tongue
- Sore throat
- Bad breath
- Difficulty swallowing, chewing, or talking
- Cracked lips, sores, or split skin at corners of mouth
- A burning sensation in the mouth or on the tongue
- Altered sense of taste
- An infection in the mouth

Depending upon the severity, there could be some simple treatments that I may suggest to help restore moisture to your mouth.

Since dry mouth increases the likelihood of tooth decay, it's important to remain diligent with good home care and regular dental exams!

Call me to schedule your complete oral and dental exam and then let me introduce you to my Dental Fitness program.

At <u>Proud Smiles</u> we believe that by working with you to achieve maximum oral health, you will also experience better over-all health and wellbeing.

Yours in Dental and Oral Health,

Dr. Brenda Paulen





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