

AI-00972 Swollen Lips

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Chief complaint is lower lips swollen and discomfort. What are possible causes

There are a number of possible causes for a swollen lower lip, some more serious than others. Here are some of the most common:

- **Allergic reaction:** This is a common cause of lip swelling, especially if you have recently eaten something new or come into contact with an allergen such as pollen, dust mites, or pet dander. Other symptoms of an allergic reaction may include hives, itching, wheezing, and trouble breathing.
- **Angioedema:** This is a sudden swelling of the deeper layers of the skin that can affect the lips, face, tongue, and throat. It can be caused by an allergic reaction, medication, or an unknown underlying condition. Angioedema can be serious if it affects the throat, as it can make it difficult to breathe.
- **Injury:** A blow to the lips can cause them to swell. The swelling should go down within a few days, but if it is accompanied by severe pain, bleeding, or numbness, you should see a doctor.
- **Infection:** A bacterial or viral infection can cause the lips to swell. This is often accompanied by other symptoms, such as redness, pus, and fever.
- **Sunburn:** Sunburned lips can become swollen, painful, and cracked.
- **Cheilitis:** This is inflammation of the lips that can cause them to become swollen, dry, and cracked. There are several different types of cheilitis, including irritant cheilitis (caused by licking or picking at the lips), angular cheilitis (caused by a fungal or bacterial infection), and actinic cheilitis (caused by sun exposure).

If your lips are swollen and you are having difficulty breathing, call emergency services immediately. Otherwise, you should see a doctor to determine the cause

of the swelling and get treatment.

It is important to note that this is not an exhaustive list and there may be other causes of swollen lips. If you are concerned about your symptoms, please see a doctor.

A differential diagnosis for a swollen lower lip refers to a list of possible causes that a doctor will consider when making a diagnosis. Here are some of the most common causes:

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Less common causes:

- **Miescher-Melkersson-Rosenthal syndrome:** This is a rare neurological disorder that can cause facial paralysis, swelling of the lips, and a fissured tongue.

- **Granulomatous cheilitis:** This is a chronic inflammatory condition that can cause lip swelling.
- **Foreign body granuloma:** This can occur if a small object, such as a splinter, becomes lodged in the lip.

It is important to note that this is not an exhaustive list and there may be other causes of swollen lips. If you are concerned about your symptoms, please see a doctor.

Additional factors to consider for differential diagnosis:

- Onset: Was the swelling sudden or gradual?
- Duration: How long has the swelling been present?
- Associated symptoms: Are there any other symptoms present, such as pain, itching, or difficulty breathing?
- Past medical history: Do you have any allergies or other medical conditions?

By considering all of these factors, a doctor can narrow down the list of possible causes and determine the most likely diagnosis.