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URL of this page: <https://medlineplus.gov/tonguedisorders.html>

Tongue Disorders

Your tongue helps you taste, swallow, and chew. You also use it to speak. Your tongue is made up of many muscles. The upper surface contains your taste buds.

Problems with the tongue include:

- Pain
- Swelling
- Changes in color or texture
- Abnormal movement or difficulty moving the tongue
- Taste [<https://medlineplus.gov/tasteandsmelldisorders.html>] problems

These problems can have many different causes. Treatment depends on the underlying problem.

Start Here

- Lip and Tongue Disorders [<https://www.merckmanuals.com/home/mouth-and-dental-disorders/lip-and-tongue-disorders>] (Merck & Co., Inc.)




Specifics

- Black Hairy Tongue [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/black-hairy-tongue/symptoms-causes/syc-20356077?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/diseases-conditions/black-hairy-tongue/symptoms-causes/syc-20356077?p=1>]
- Fissured Tongue [https://www.aaom.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=130:fissured-tongue&catid=22:patient-condition-information&Itemid=120] (American Academy of Oral Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.aaom.com/assets/condition-information/spanishfissuredtongue.pdf>]
- Yellow Tongue [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/symptoms/yellow-tongue/basics/definition/SYM-20050595?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/symptoms/yellow-tongue/basics/definition/sym-20050595?p=1>]

Images

- Hairy Tongue [<https://skinsight.com/skin-conditions/hairy-tongue/?lmiw9cApl=1>] (VisualDX)

Clinical Trials

- ClinicalTrials.gov: Glossitis [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Glossitis%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov: Glossitis, Benign Migratory [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Glossitis,+Benign+Migratory%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov: Tongue Diseases [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Tongue+Diseases%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles


References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Application value of indocyanine green lymphography in the management of stage...
[<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40660315>]
- Article: Extensive and persistent tongue ulceration is an early character of dyskeratosis...
[<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40259308>]
- Article: Association of Scalloped Tongue with Blood Pressure Among Community-Dwelling Japanese: The...
[<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40243023>]
- Tongue Disorders -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Tongue+Diseases%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+2+Years%22+%5Bedat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29>]

Reference Desk

- Find an ENT (Ear, Nose, and Throat Specialist) [<https://www.enthealth.org/find-ent/>]
(American Academy of Otolaryngology--Head and Neck Surgery)

Find an Expert

- American Academy of Otolaryngology--Head and Neck Surgery [<https://www.entnet.org/>]
- National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research [<https://www.nidcr.nih.gov/>] 
Also in Spanish [<https://www.nidcr.nih.gov/espanol/>]

Children

- Tongue Tie (Ankyloglossia) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/tongue-tie.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/tongue-tie.html>]
- Your Tongue [<https://kidshealth.org/en/kids/tongue.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/kids/tongue.html>]

Patient Handouts

- Geographic tongue [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001049.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001049.htm>]
- Glossitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001053.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001053.htm>]
- Leukoplakia [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001046.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001046.htm>]
- Macroglossia [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002250.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/002250.htm>]
- Tongue biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003849.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003849.htm>]
- Tongue problems [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003047.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003047.htm>]
- Tongue tie [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001640.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001640.htm>]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

Geographic tongue [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001049.htm>]

Glossitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001053.htm>]

Leukoplakia [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001046.htm>]

Macroglossia [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002250.htm>]

Tongue biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003849.htm>]

Tongue problems [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003047.htm>]

Tongue tie [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001640.htm>]

Related Health Topics

Mouth Disorders [<https://medlineplus.gov/mouthdisorders.html>]

Oral Cancer [<https://medlineplus.gov/oralcancer.html>]

Speech and Communication Disorders [<https://medlineplus.gov/speechandcommunicationdisorders.html>]

Taste and Smell Disorders [<https://medlineplus.gov/tasteandsmelldisorders.html>]

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