

*Patient Education
Information
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THE SOUTH AFRICAN
DENTAL ASSOCIATION



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South African Dental Association

Private Bag 1

Houghton, Gauteng

South Africa

T: +27 11 484 5288

E: info@sada.co.za

www.sada.co.za

Kidney Disease and Oral Health

How can kidney disease affect the mouth?

As people with kidney disease have weakened immune systems, they are more susceptible to oral infections such as gingivitis and periodontitis as a result of a build-up of bacteria.

Bone loss in the jaw, as a result of calcium imbalance, can also occur in those with kidney disease.

Can kidney failure affect your teeth?

Individuals with renal disease may be at increased risk of tooth decay as a consequence of a lack of saliva (as saliva helps neutralize the acids of dental plaque).

With less saliva to bathe teeth, they are more prone to decay.

Less saliva can also lead to bad breath, gum disease, and tooth loss.

Kidney disease can affect many areas of your health and well-being.

Dry mouth, Kidney disease and Dialysis

Dry mouth is a common symptom of reduced kidney function.

Dialysis is the standard treatment in CKD patients, as a means to remove excess fluid when the kidneys cannot do their work, as a result a reduction in saliva is usually experienced.

In one study, the average number of teeth in people on dialysis was just 20—a loss of 12.

Dry mouth can be relieved through the use of saline spray, crushed ice, or sugar-free chewing gum if appropriate.