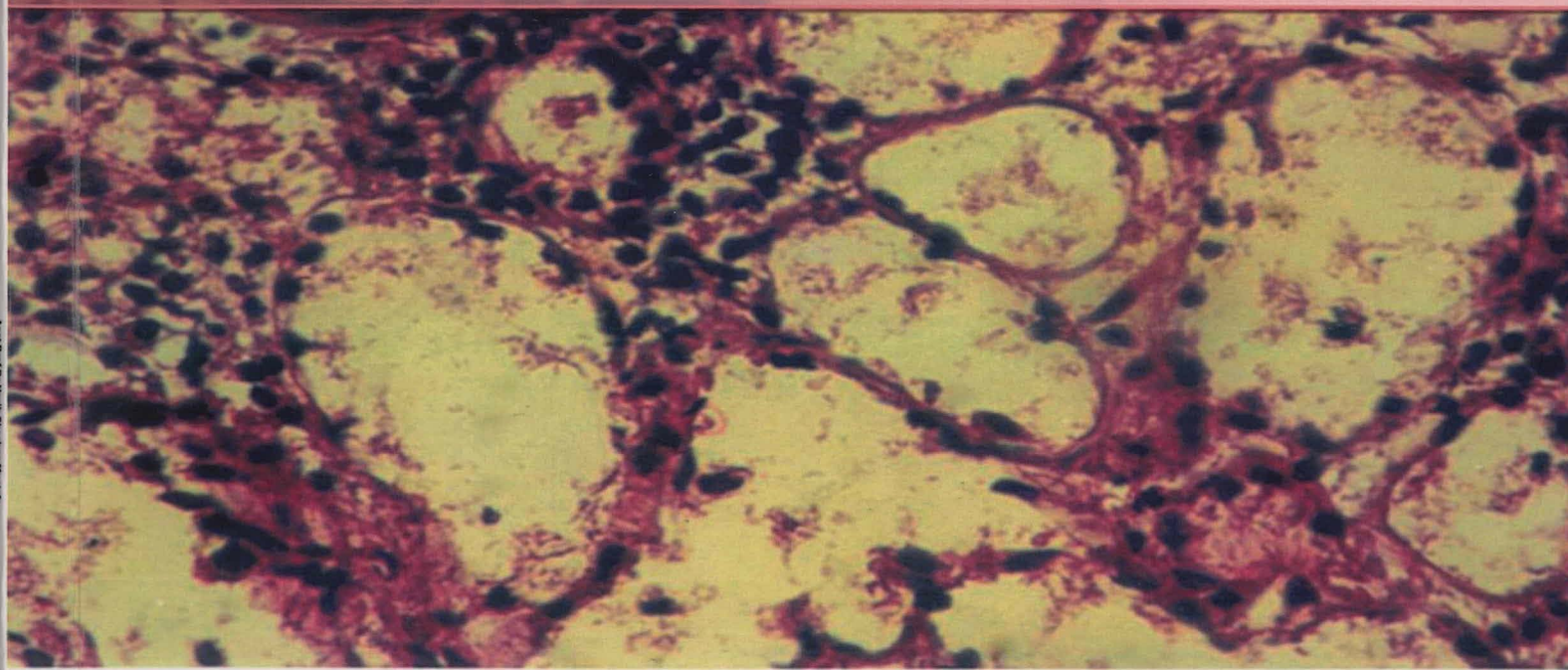




# APPLICATION OF BASIC MEDICAL SCIENCES IN CLINICAL DENTISTRY



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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT .....	i
<b>CHAPTER 1</b> <b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>CHAPTER 2</b> <b>SALIVA AS A DIAGNOSTIC AND PROGNOSTIC PARAMETER IN SYSTEMIC DISEASES      (5815/17148)</b>	
2.1 Introduction .....	3
2.2 Diagnostic Uses of Saliva .....	4
2.3 Formation of Saliva .....	5
2.4 Functions of Saliva .....	6
2.5 Composition of Saliva .....	8
2.6 Flow Rate.....	10
2.7 Xerostomia .....	10
2.8 Bibliography .....	12
<b>CHAPTER 3</b> <b>INFRATEMPORAL FOSSA      (5910/17150)</b>	<b>16</b>
3.1 Boundaries of the Infratemporal Fossa .....	17
3.2 Contents .....	18
3.3 Clinical Importance .....	29
3.4 Bibliography .....	30
<b>CHAPTER 4</b> <b>TISSUE SPACES AROUND THE UPPER AND LOWER JAWS      (5910/17517)</b>	<b>31</b>
4.1 Submental Space .....	32
4.2 Submandibular Space .....	33
4.3 Sublingual Space .....	35
4.4 Buccal Space .....	36
4.5 Submasseteric Space .....	37
4.6 Parotid Space .....	37
4.7 Pterygomandibular Space .....	38
4.8 Bibliography .....	39

**CHAPTERS 5      BLOOD VESSELS OF THE HEAD AND NECK      (5910/17549)**

5.1 Description on Common Carotid Artery ..... 40  
5.2 Description on External Carotid Artery ..... 41  
5.3 Description on Internal Carotid Artery ..... 46  
5.4 Description on Venous Drainage of the Head and Neck ..... 49  
5.5 Bibliography ..... 52

**CHAPTERS 6      ORAL CANCER      (5756/17552)**

6.1 Early Detection of Oral Cancer..... 53  
6.2 Squamous Cell Carcinoma ..... 56  
6.3 Biopsy ..... 58  
6.4 Clinical and Radiographical Features ..... 61  
6.5 Bibliography ..... 65

**CHAPTERS 7      TOOTH MORPHOLOGY IN CLINICAL DENTAL PRACTICE      (5504/17554)**

7.1 Introduction ..... 66  
7.2 Mamellons ..... 67  
7.3 Perikymata ..... 68  
7.4 Lobes ..... 69  
7.5 Bibliography ..... 73

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**LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS..... 74**

**INDEX ..... 75**

## **CHAPTER 2** *Dr. Nazih Shaaban Mustafa*

### **Saliva as A Diagnostic and Prognostic Parameter In Systemic Diseases**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

Saliva is a glandular secretion, which constantly bathes the teeth and oral mucosa. It is constituted by secretions of three paired major salivary glands, parotid, submandibular and sublingual, together with minor salivary glands.

The oral cavity is continuously bathed with saliva. However, several factors are still not obvious about saliva; these are its chemical composition, its remarkable buffering capacity, its role in digestion, its multiple functions in protecting the host against microbial infections, and its function to facilitate the remineralization of enamel.

The bulk of saliva is secreted by the major salivary glands; the rest is secreted by the minor salivary glands, which are scattered in the sub-mucosa in different parts of the oral cavity. The daily secretion of saliva ranges normally between 800-1500 ml/day; about 0.5 ml is secreted each minute all the time except during sleep where it becomes very little.

Unstimulated whole saliva is a mixture of major and minor salivary gland secretions, gingival fluid, inflammatory exudate, serum transudate and bacterial metabolites. This material will be referred to in this study as saliva, with the understanding that it is a composite of all of the fluids of the oral cavity.