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| **Name:** |
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| **Group:** |
| 8A-2 |
| **Basic Science Question:** |
| What are the major salivary glands of the oral cavity? |
| **Report:** |
| There are three major salivary glands in the human oral cavity that each come in a pair. These are the parotid, submandibular, and sublingual glands (Holmberg, Kyle, Hoffman). These glands are each extremely vascularized and innervated, and produce saliva essential to lubricating the oral cavity, dental health, eating, protection, and more (Holmberg, Kyle, Hoffman). All three of these glands have similar histology and conserved anatomy that consists of saliva producing acinar cells (Porcheri, Mitsiadis).  The parotid gland’s main excretory duct is Stensen’s duct which empties near the second maxillary molar in the buccal mucosa (Holmberg, Kyle, Hoffman). The parotid capsule is closely associated with CN VII, and damage to this a risk upon excisions (Holmberg, Kyle, Hoffman). The sublingual gland consists of the Bartholin’s duct, as well as a series of smaller Rivinus’s ducts that secrete onto the floor of the mouth (Porcheri, Mitsiadis). The submandibular gland, which is more subject to salivary stones, is closely associated with the lingual nerve and excretes saliva via the Wharton’s duct in the floor of the mouth (Holmberg, Kyle, Hoffman). The Wharton’s and Bartholin’s ducts connect at the sublingual caruncula (Holmberg, Kyle, Hoffman). |
| **References:** |
| Holmberg, Kyle V, and Matthew P Hoffman. “Anatomy, biogenesis and regeneration of salivary glands.” *Monographs in oral science* vol. 24 (2014): 1-13. doi:10.1159/000358776  Porcheri C, Mitsiadis TA. Physiology, Pathology and Regeneration of Salivary Glands. Cells. 2019; 8(9):976. |