

## Salivary Glands with Dr. Jack Russo

[Music]

Hi my name is Jackie Russo and I'm an ear, nose, and throat doctor, and head and neck surgeon at ENT and Allergy Associates in Brooklyn Heights. I wanted to talk to you a little about Salivary Glands. So, there are four main Salivary Glands; the Parotid Glands sit on the side of the face, overlying the corner of the jaw. The submandibular glands sit under the jaw on each side of the neck. These glands create saliva, and they drain into the mouth via small ducts or tubes. The Parotid drain in the back part of the inside of the cheek and submandibular glands drain under the front of the tongue. There are a few different reasons why salivary glands can swell or enlarge. The first is you can have obstruction within the duct that causes the saliva to build up within that gland. That can come from stone forming within the duct similar to what happens with a kidney stone. In those cases, we can do a procedure called sialendoscopy where we put small endoscopes backwards through the duct and can retrieve those stones often without making any incisions. The second main reason that salivary glands swell up is from infection. In those the areas is typically very tender to touch and red and patients have fevers and feel ill. Those infections can get out of hand pretty quickly so it's important to treat them with antibiotics promptly. The third reason that the salivary glands can swell is from tumors within the glands. Thankfully, the vast majority of these tumors are benign and not cancerous, but they are often still removed because they grow larger over time and can cause problems.

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