MUMPS (INFECTIOUS PAROTITIS)

DEFINITION

Mumps is a viral disease that may include myalgia, anorexia, malaise, headache, low-grade fever, parotid gland tenderness and unilateral or bilateral swelling, although many other organs can be involved. (Define the following terms: myalgia, anorexia, and malaise.)

ETIOLOGY

Mumps is caused by paramyxovirus transmitted in saliva droplets or direct contact. The virus lives in the saliva six to 9 days before the parotid gland swelling. The highest communicable period is 48 hours before the onset of swelling but continues until swelling is decreased. Incubation period ranges from 14 to 25 days.

INCIDENCE

(Investigate the incidence in the past 10 years.)

PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

During the incubation period, the virus invades salivary glands which causes tissue edema and infiltration of lymphocytes. Degeneration of cells in the glandular tissue produces necrotic debris that plugs the ducts.

CLINICAL SYMPTOMS

The prodrome generally begins with myalgia, anorexia, malaise, headache, and low-grade fever. Next the patient may have an earache aggravated by chewing, temperature of 101 to 104°F, and pain from chewing food or drinking acidic liquid. Both the parotid gland and other salivary glands become swollen. (Define prodrome.)

ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENT:

Investigate what complications may occur with mumps in children and adults.

Summarize how mumps would be diagnosed.

Summarize outpatient and inpatient complications of treatment.