

Sublingual gland

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The sublingual glands contribute around 5% of saliva production and are the smallest of the major salivary glands. They lie above the mylohyoid muscle and below the floor of mouth mucosa and are bordered by the mandible laterally and by the genioglossus muscle medially. Their secretions are drained by small ducts (Rivinus's ducts) that exit along the sublingual fold at the floor of the mouth. A few anterior ducts may join together to form a common duct called Bartholin's duct, which empties close to or into Wharton's duct near the sublingual caruncle. The pathology of the sublingual glands mainly involves the formation of a mucous retention cyst (ranula). Tumours of sublingual glands are very rare. Summary box 54.3 Sublingual gland

Problems are rare Minor mucous retention cysts may need surgery A plunging ranula is a retention cyst that tunnels deep Nearly all tumours are malignant

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