

FOR USE IN WEEK STARTING

April 4, 2011

Ask Dr.

(photo)

By _____

NOTICE

COLUMNS MAY BE USED ONLY DURING THIS
QUARTER, AND ONLY IF LICENSE FEES, AS BILLED,
HAVE BEEN PAID IN FULL.

BENIGN TUMORS

Q: What are fibroma and papilloma?

A: Fibroma and papilloma are the names of two common benign growths, or tumors, that occur in the mouth. The so-called 'irritation fibroma' is the most common. It is generally caused by incessant sucking or biting on the tongue, cheek or lip. The fibroma is a smooth-surfaced, pink, mushroom-shaped growth with a stalk that appears on the affected surface. A papilloma is also mushroom-shaped but has an irregular, white, pebbly surface.

A papilloma is a growth that appears on its own, not as a result of irritation. A papilloma is similar to a wart on your skin and, as with warts, can be caused by a virus. A fibroma is likely to appear, for instance, opposite a small space in the teeth through which tissue can be sucked. If that's the cause of a fibroma, your dentist may be able to fit you with an appliance that can fill that open area.

Fibroma and papilloma are benign tumors; your dentist will generally not send them for a biopsy. The most common technique for removal is excision. Whenever you notice any abnormal growth in your mouth, see your dentist as soon as possible.

Presented as a service to the community by

(name, address, phone)