they are at an increased risk of dental caries and oral infections (particularly candidiasis). Many drugs have been implicated in xerostomia, particularly **antimuscarinics** (anticholinergics), **antidepressants** (including tricyclic antidepressants, and selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors), **alpha-blockers, antihistamines, antipsychotics, baclofen p. 1190, bupropion hydrochloride p. 521, clonidine hydrochloride p. 156, $5HT_1$ agonists, opioids**, and tizanidine p. 1192. Excessive use of **diuretics** can also result in xerostomia.
Some drugs (e.g. clozapine p. 414, neostigmine p. 1188) can *increase saliva production* but this is rarely a problem unless the patient has associated difficulty in swallowing.
Pain in the salivary glands has been reported with some **antihypertensives** (e.g. clonidine hydrochloride p. 156, methyldopa p. 157) and with **vinca alkaloids**.
Swelling of the salivary glands can occur with **iodides, antithyroid drugs, phenothiazines,** and **sulfonamides**.

Taste There can be *decreased* taste acuity or *alteration* in taste sensation. Many drugs are implicated, including amiodarone hydrochloride p. 112, **calcitonin, ACE inhibitors**, carbimazole p. 814, clarithromycin p. 567, **gold**, griseofulvin p. 636, **lithium salts**, metformin hydrochloride p. 730, metronidazole p. 572, penicillamine p. 1158, phenindione p. 150, propafenone hydrochloride p. 111, **protease inhibitors**, terbinafine p. 1300, and zopiclone p. 512.

Defective medicines

During the manufacture or distribution of a medicine an error or accident may occur whereby the finished product does not conform to its specification. While such a defect may impair the therapeutic effect of the product and could adversely affect the health of a patient, it should **not** be confused with an Adverse Drug Reaction where the product conforms to its specification.
The Defective Medicines Report Centre assists with the investigation of problems arising from licensed medicinal products thought to be defective and co-ordinates any necessary protective action. Reports on suspect defective medicinal products should include the brand or the non-proprietary name, the name of the manufacturer or supplier, the strength and dosage form of the product, the product licence number, the batch number or numbers of the product, the nature of the defect, and an account of any action already taken in consequence. The Centre can be contacted at:

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