

Salivary glands

- Salivary glands secretion is called **saliva**.
- Saliva is a slightly alkaline secretion which is 99% water.
- It consists of proteins like mucin which serves to lubricate the food and also the passage along which the food passes to facilitate easy swallowing.
- It also contains the enzyme called the **salivary amylase or ptyalin**.
- It partially digests starch, a polysaccharide, into maltose, a disaccharide. (The complete digestion into glucose, a monosaccharide takes place later)
- **Types of salivary glands**
 - Parotid, the largest salivary gland (found beneath the earlobe).
 - Submandibular (below each side of the lower jaw).
 - Sub lingual (below the tongue).
- All of them pour their secretions into the mouth through ducts. Human beings, on an average produce about 2 to 3 litres of saliva everyday.

