

Non-normal:
color: white, bluish-red, yellow spots (Fordyce granules)
texture: rough, dry
consistency: spongy, leathery
contour: Note linea alba, cheekbite, cheek chewing

PALATE: (HARD PALATE)

Normal:
color: pink
texture: stippled, moist
consistency: firm
contour: Note rugae, raphe, incisive papilla, midline

Non-normal:
color: white, red (especially under denture)
texture: smooth, dry, leathery
consistency: spongy
contour: Note: torus palatinus, enlarged or atrophied raphe, rugae, incisive papilla

SOFT PALATE

Normal:
color: red (note difference between hard and soft palate)
texture: smooth, small glandular elevations, moist
consistency: spongy
contour: like a curtain over distal end of oral cavity proper

Non-normal:
color: very red, bluish, white
texture: rough, dry
consistency: difficult to determine because of gag reflex
contour: enlargement: note long, short, bifid uvula
lesions: note location, size, non-normal appearance

PALATINE PILLARS, TONSILLAR REGION

Note: To inspect, have patient say "AHHH" with deep tone, depress first one side of base of tongue, then other.

Normal:
color: pink, slightly reddened
texture: smooth, moist
contour: anterior pillar (glossopalatine muscle)
posterior pillar (pharyngopalatine muscle)
vertical folds; tonsils (like pink walnut shells) convoluted

Non-normal:
color: red, white
texture: abraded, dry
contour: tonsils may be enlarged or absent (granulation tissue may be present)