

*Guzman v. State*

Police received a description of a suspect carrying drugs concealed in his mouth. Soon after, the informant pointed out the suspect to officers. Upon seeing the officers, the suspect began walking quickly away from them. When the officers caught up to him and questioned him about what he was holding in his mouth, the suspect began swallowing the contents. The officers seized the suspect and recovered heroin balloons from his mouth and stomach. The suspect was tried and convicted for drug possession.

The court of appeals reversed the conviction on the grounds that the drugs had been improperly seized without a warrant or reasonable cause. The Court of Criminal Appeals reaffirmed the trial court, finding that the totality of the circumstances justified the warrantless search. The area was known for drug traffic, the identification by the informant led to one specific individual, the suspect attempted to elude police when spotted, and he evidently attempted to destroy evidence concealed in his mouth by swallowing it when questioned. Although any one of these alone might have been insufficient to justify the actions of the police, together they supported the inference that the suspect was in possession of drugs.