

ORAL CANCER: VARIED CLINICAL APPEARANCE

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IMAGE:

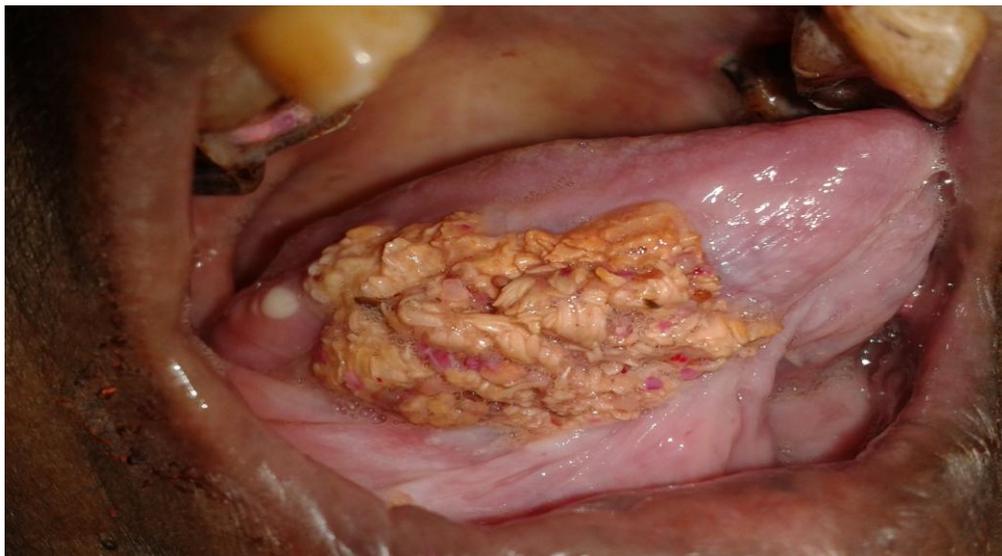


Figure-1: Intra-oral photograph of the patient showing proliferative growth on the ventral surface of tongue with a varied clinical appearance

DESCRIPTION:

A female patient aged 39 years old reported with chief complaint of a growth in her mouth since 3-4 months which was sudden in onset and is associated with slight discomfort. There is no history of pain. Patient gives history of tobacco chewing habit since 8 years. Patient keeps the tobacco under her tongue for 3-4 times a day. Extra-oral examination revealed no abnormality. On intra-oral examination, a proliferative growth was seen on ventral surface of

the tongue on right side extending medio-laterally from right lateral border of tongue till midline, measuring approximately 3 x 4 cm in size, yellowish brown in color, surface having multiple finger like projections creating a rough surface. On palpation, lesion was non tender and firm. Regional lymph nodes were non palpable. Provisional diagnosis of malignant growth was made and incisional biopsy was performed which revealed presence of malignant cells thus confirming final diagnosis of well

differentiated oral squamous cell carcinoma.

All over the world, India is at the highest position in terms of prevalence of oral cancer. It is the third most common cancer in India after cervical and breast cancer amongst women but it is the commonest cancer amongst the male population.¹ Although oral cancer has preponderance for occurring in old age, but it can occur in young age also as seen in our case that too with a varied clinical appearance.

LEARNING POINTS:

Oral Cancer can occur at young age also and that too without any alarming features

Due to varied clinical appearance like this, it can be mistaken for other lesions.

Patients should be encouraged for routine oral and dental check up so that oral cancer can be diagnosed in its pre cancer stage and necessary steps can be taken.

REFERENCES:

1. Khan Z. An Overview of Oral Cancer in Indian Subcontinent and Recommendations to Decrease its

Incidence. WebmedCentral CANCER 2012;3(8):WMC003626