

Images in clinical medicine

An unusual presentation of an oral human papillomavirus (HPV) lesion

Cinzia Casu, Antonello Mameli

Corresponding author: Cinzia Casu, Department of Surgical Science, Oral Biotechnology Laboratory (OBL), University of Cagliari, Cagliari, Italy. ginzia.85@hotmail.it

Received: 24 Oct 2020 - **Accepted:** 20 Nov 2020 - **Published:** 10 Dec 2020

Keywords: Oral HPV lesion, squamous papilloma, oral HPV, lichen planus

Copyright: Cinzia Casu et al. Pan African Medical Journal (ISSN: 1937-8688). This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution International 4.0 License (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

Cite this article: Cinzia Casu et al. An unusual presentation of an oral human papillomavirus (HPV) lesion. Pan African Medical Journal. 2020;37(332). 10.11604/pamj.2020.37.332.26648

Available online at: <https://www.panafrican-med-journal.com//content/article/37/332/full>

An unusual presentation of an oral human papillomavirus (HPV) lesion

Cinzia Casu^{1,&}, Antonello Mameli¹

¹Department of Surgical Science, Oral Biotechnology Laboratory (OBL), University of Cagliari, Cagliari, Italy

&Corresponding author

Cinzia Casu, Department of Surgical Science, Oral Biotechnology Laboratory (OBL), University of Cagliari, Cagliari, Italy

Image in medicine

A 45-year-old male patient went to our observation for a white lesion in the left lower gum. At the anamnesis, he reported previous diagnosis of oral erosive and genital lichen planus (discovered 2 and 12 years before respectively) and the excision of 2 small oral squamous papillomas 2 year ago. A PCR-real time test using a saliva sample was carried out a year ago, but it did not confirm the presence of the HPV DNA. During the clinical examination, we observed a white not scrapable lesion of 2.2cm in the vestibular gum around the teeth 3.6-3.7. The lesion is not linked with a traumatic event and we decided to make an

incisional biopsy to verify if it was another injury linked to the spread of oral erosive lichen planus or a new entity. The histological examination confirmed a diagnosis of oral HPV lesion, precisely squamous papilloma, but in-situ hybridation did not find HPV DNA. The presence of a mild dysplasia with unaffected margins was also confirmed. At our first knowledge, this is the first

documented case in literature of an oral squamous papilloma with a keratin-like appearance, rather than exophytic and/or cauliflower form. The differential diagnosis could be with oral lichen planus, leukoplakia or verruca vulgaris. The patient was advised of the risk of malignancy connected with the simultaneous presence of oral erosive lichen planus and HPV lesions.



Figure 1: particular presentation of a relapse of squamous papilloma