



MUCOSAL DISEASES (ORAL, ANOGENITAL), EXTERNAL EYE DISEASE

PIGMENTED FUNGIFORM PAPILLAE OF THE TONGUE: CASE REPORT

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Background: Fungiform papillae are red or pink, mushroom-shaped projections located on the tip, dorsal or lateral parts of the tongue, containing several taste buds. When they are brown to black in colour, they are referred as pigmented fungiform papillae of the tongue (PFPT). This condition is more common in black populations, indicating a higher susceptibility.

Observation: We report a case of a 20-year-old Moroccan woman, who presented with pigmentation on the dorsum of her tongue, which had been present for 2 years. She did not have any accompanying symptoms. Her medical and family history was not relevant, and she was not taking any medication.

On physical examination of the oral mucosa, pigmentation limited to the fungiform papillae on the tip and lateral part of the tongue were seen. No other physical abnormalities were found. Liver tests and kidney function were normal and a decreased serum iron was noticed.

Key message : Pigmented fungiform papillae of the tongue develop in the second or third decade of life, few cases are described in childhood.

Different authors described an association with iron deficiency (our patient), haemochromatosis, anaemia or ichthyosis linearis circumflexa. In a clinical analysis of 58 Chinese cases of PFPT (2 males, 56 females), the authors hypothesise that certain pigmentary defects are possible triggered by abnormal secretion or fluctuation of sex hormones, with consequent the dropped-off melanin in the dermis.

we describe the first case of PFTP in a moroccan woman. Dermatologists should be aware of this benign condition, which is not frequently mentioned in the dermatology literature, to avoid an incorrect diagnosis and unnecessary investigations.

