Pigmentation of the Fungiform Papillae of the Tongue: A Report of 2 Cases

Pigmentación de las papilas fungiformes linguales. A propósito de dos casos

To the Editor:

Pigmented fungiform papillae of the tongue was first described over a century ago. Although it seems fairly common in black individuals, few textbooks of dermatology and oral pathology refer to it. Some cases have been described in Japanese and Indian populations, but it is considered rare in oriental races and very rare in white individuals.

We present 2 patients in Spain recently diagnosed with pigmented fungiform papillae of the tongue. The first patient was a 35-year-old black woman. Her medical history included positive human immunodeficiency virus serology detected in 2006 and a cerebral tuberculoma treated with antituberculous drugs in 2007; she is currently on treatment with tenofovir, emtricitabine and nevirapine. The patient attended for pigmentation on the dorsum of the tongue that she had noticed a few months earlier. Examination of the oral mucosa showed that the patient had pigmentation limited to the fungiform papillae on some areas of the dorsum of the tongue. The pigmented papillae were in groups of 15 to 20 papillae, giving the dorsum of the tongue a mottled appearance (fig. 1). The second patient was a 43-year-old indigenous South American woman who had undergone cesarean section 22 years earlier. She was not taking any medication on a regular basis. The patient had noticed pigmentation on the dorsum of the tongue a few months earlier. Examination of the oral mucosa showed pigmentation limited to the fungiform papillae on some areas of the dorsum of the tongue. The pigmented papillae were in groups of 15 to 20 papillae, giving the dorsum of the tongue a mottled appearance (fig. 1). The second patient was a 43-year-old indigenous South American woman who had undergone cesarean section 22 years earlier. She was not taking any medication on a regular basis. The patient had noticed pigmentation on the dorsum of the tongue a few months earlier. Examination of the oral mucosa showed pigmentation limited to the fungiform papillae on some areas of the dorsum of the tongue. The pigmented papillae were in groups of 15 to 20 papillae, giving the dorsum of the tongue a mottled appearance (fig. 1). The second patient was a 43-year-old indigenous South American woman who had undergone cesarean section 22 years earlier. She was not taking any medication on a regular basis.

Pigmented fungiform papillae of the tongue was described in 1905 and was initially thought to be associated with hookworm infestation. Other authors have reported associations with dermatological disorders such as linear circumflex ichthyosis and lichen planus, an association with systemic diseases such as hemochromatosis, scleroderma, pernicious anemia, and

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Delayed Foreign Body Reaction to Steel Wire Suture Resembling Basal Cell Carcinoma

Reacción retardada a cuerpo extraño por alambre de acero inoxidable simulando un carcinoma basocelular

To the Editor:

A foreign body is any live or inanimate material introduced in the human body, and the body responds by using its mechanisms of defense. Although a broad definition would also include microorganisms that elicit an immune response, foreign bodies are usually considered to be inorganic compounds or high-molecular-weight organic materials that resist destruction by inflammatory cells. These substances can enter iatrogenically during surgical procedures, as is the case with foreign body reactions to suture material.

We describe an 87-year-old man with a history of prostate cancer, atrial fibrillation, hypertension, and chronic bronchitis who had undergone surgery 30 years earlier for a malignant neoplastic process classified by the hospital at the time as nasal natural killer lymphoma; no further information was available. In March 2010 the patient consulted for an excrescent mass from 5 months previously that was present on the nasal bridge, on

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J. Marcoval,∗ J. Notario, S. Martín-Sala, I. Figueras
Servicio de Dermatología, Hospital Universitari de Bellvitge, IDIBELL, Barcelona, Spain
∗ Corresponding author. E-mail address: jmarcoval@bellvitgehospital.cat (J. Marcoval).

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