



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

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DRUG INDUCED ORAL LESIONS AND PIGMENTATIONS; A Review

KEY WORDS:

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ABSTRACT

Background Every organ and system in the body can have adverse medication reactions, which are commonly misdiagnosed as symptoms of underlying diseases. Similarly, a variety of medications or chemicals can have an impact on the mouth and related structures. The term "drug allergy" only refers to an IgE-mediated reaction. An allergic reaction to a substance is one that is immunologically mediated and that manifests specificity and recurrence with re-exposure to the offending drug. Clinically, there are two forms of typical drug-induced mouth ulcers. The first is severe mucositis and ulceration, such features are seen like Aphthous stomatitis, Burning mouth syndrome, Vesiculo-bullous Lesions, Effects of Drugs on Oral Mucosa and Tongue, Color Changes of Oral Mucosa and Teeth, Etc., **Management** The seriousness of a potential adverse medication reaction, such as anaphylactic shock, might often make quick intervention crucial. **Conclusion** Many oral lesions and drug reaction symptoms can mimic systemic disorders and can be treated locally or occasionally systemically. An issue emerges when a patient is declared allergic to a drug and is consequently prohibited from receiving that drug or that set of pharmaceuticals in the future

INTRODUCTION

Compared to adverse medication responses that affect the skin, oral reactions are less frequent. Since these reactions might mirror other disease states like erythema multiforme or xerostomia, the diagnosis of these reactions occasionally calls for a high index of suspicion. (1). Even when used as directed and in the prescribed manner, all medications have the potential to have negative side effects. Adverse effects from drugs taken either locally or systemically might have an impact on every area of the mouth mucosa. Since oral adverse medication events are uncommon, they can occasionally be difficult to identify. (2). Patients are exposed to the danger of experiencing drug reactions due to the wide range of medications they take to treat their illnesses. An example of an "adverse drug reaction," as defined by Edwards and Aronson in 2000, is "an appreciably harmful or unpleasant reaction, resulting from an intervention related to the use of a medicinal product, which predicts risk from future administration and warrants prevention or specific treatment, or alteration of the dosage regimen, or withdrawal of the product." (3). Regardless of their aetiology, drug responses include all unfavourable occurrences connected to the administration of drugs.

Drug hypersensitivity is an immune-mediated reaction to a drug in a patient who has already been exposed to it. The term "drug allergy" only refers to an IgE-mediated reaction. An allergic reaction to a substance is one that is immunologically mediated and that manifests specificity and recurrence with re-exposure to the offending drug. (4). every organ and system in the body may experience negative medication reactions, which are frequently misdiagnosed as symptoms of a disease. Many medications or chemicals can have negative effects on the mouth and related structures. Salivary function and good mouth health are crucial for overall body wellness. (5). The pathogenetic mechanism appears to be very complex and includes two different types of reaction: type A, which are dose-dependent and based on the pharmacology of the drug, and type B, immunologic (antibody or T-cell mediated) and non-immunologic, such as direct mucosal/submucosal toxicity as seen in oral ulcer induced by nicorandil or by conventional and targeted anticancer therapy. (7). Both Stevens Johnson syndrome (SJS) and toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN) are severe cutaneous reactions

characterised by widespread apoptosis and detachment of the skin's and mucous membranes' epithelium. (8).

Clinical Features

Clinically, there are two forms of typical drug-induced mouth ulcers. The first is severe mucositis and ulceration, primarily brought on by cytotoxic medications used in chemotherapy for cancer treatment. Within days of starting therapy, severe sloughing and ulceration appear, and the resulting discomfort frequently necessitates opioid medication as well as a change in or discontinuation of chemotherapy. These cytotoxic medications include cisplatin, methotrexate, bleomycin, and 5-fluorouracil. Oral ulcers can also be brought on by immunosuppressive medications through opportunistic secondary infections including germs like gram-negative bacteria and fungi. (20).

1. Aphthous Stomatitis

Aphthous stomatitis, also known as recurrent aphthous stomatitis, recurring oral aphthae, or recurrent aphthous ulceration, is a common illness that causes persons who are otherwise healthy to repeatedly develop benign, non-contagious mouth ulcers (aphthae). Numerous medications, such as capropril, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), asathiopurine, losartan, and gold compounds can cause ulcerations that resemble aphthous. The mechanism behind this reaction pattern is not fully understood.

One or more lesions may be present. Minor, large, and herpetiforme ulcers are the three clinical variants that are known. Herpetiforme ulcers of the minor form and the main form both last for 3-6 weeks, but the minor form heals without leaving any scars. (20).

2. Burning Mouth Syndrome

A searing feeling in the tongue, lips, palate, or across the mouth is a common description of the painful, frustrating disease known as burning mouth syndrome (BMS). Burning, scorching, or tingling sensation on the tongue, lips, throat, or palate, no obvious lesion, with or without any sign of inflammation, and discomfort that is typically worse at night are signs and symptoms. Antibiotics, hormone replacement therapy, antidepressants, ACE inhibitors, and cephalosporin are the drugs that cause this side effect the most frequently.

3. Vesiculo-bullous Lesions

Oral drug reactions that remarkably resemble idiopathic Lichen planus, Erythema multiforme (EM), Pemphigoid, Pemphigus vulgaris, and Lupus erythematosus (LE) clinically, histopathologically, and even immunopathologically are well known, and the list of reactions in each category is continually growing. Clinically, any oral site can be impacted; however, the alveolar mucosa, lateral margins of the tongue, and posterior buccal mucosa (cheeks) are the most often afflicted areas. Although bilaterally symmetrical involvement is not rare, lesions can nevertheless be isolated. (77)

Skin and mucous membranes are both susceptible to the hypersensitive reaction known as erythema multiform (EM). Papule, macule, vesicle, erosion, or ulceration are some of the possible symptoms. With a slight propensity to the gingiva, the lesions can affect any area of the oral mucosa, but significant lip involvement with ulcer and crust can be particularly common. Herpes simplex virus (HSV) and less frequently Mycoplasma pneumoniae are the most frequent causes of EM. Drugs like NSAIDs and anti-leptic medications cause this reaction in 18–25% of instances. Additionally, it is a consequence of barbiturates, sulfonamides, and sulfonyl urea.

4. Effects of Drugs on Oral Mucosa and Tongue

The only site of involvement may be the mucosal membranes of the mouth, or they may be a component of a more widespread skin reaction to the offending substance. A delayed hypersensitivity reaction, which is mediated by sensitised T-lymphocytes, is the most common form to impact the oral mucosa. With systemic drug use, stomatitis medicamentosa, also known as a fixed drug eruption, and contact hypersensitivity, stomatitis venenata, manifest. In moderate situations, lesions linked to fixed drug eruption are erythematous; in severe cases, they take on an ulcerated appearance. The responses often manifest 24 hours after medication consumption. After using ampicillin, a delayed reaction (lasting up to two weeks) has been reported. Lesions vanish if the culprit medication is stopped using. (78).

5. Color Changes of Oral Mucosa and Teeth

Direct contact with a substance can cause discoloration, as can systemic drug absorption. The main causes of tissue discoloration in the past were exposure to metals like lead, mercury, zinc, copper, bismuth, silver, and gold. It is common to notice colour changes along the gingival edges, which are brought on by the production of metallic sulphides in gingival pockets as a result of interactions with plaque products.

The deposit of melanin or iron in mucosal tissues has been proposed as a mechanism of action for antimalarial medications like quinolones, including chloroquine and mepacrine. The accumulation of a drug metabolite in the tissue is what leads to widespread mucosal pigmentation in long-term users of phenothiazines, particularly chlorpromazine. Although described, smokers' melanosis is less common or noticeable than might be anticipated given the prevalence of smoking. It is characterised by increased melanin formation, particularly in the attached gingiva. (73).

6. Salivary Gland Enlargement

An adverse medication reaction has been documented as swelling of the salivary glands. Iodine-containing medications, such as those used as imaging contrast media, are the most often prescribed medications related with parotid enlargement. One of the most frequent side effects of radioiodine, a significant therapeutic substance used to treat thyroid cancer, is swelling of the salivary glands (37).

Insulin, methyl dopa, phenylbutazone, oxyphenbutazone, potassium chloride, sulfonamide, sodium warfarin, naproxen, guanidine, nitrofurantoin, clonidine, terbinafine, chlorhexidine, and doxycycline are additional medications

known to expand the salivary glands. Additionally, sialorrhea-related bilateral salivary gland enlargement is caused by benzodiazepines. (9).

7. Mucous Membrane Pigmentation

In 10 to 20% of cases, acquired melanocytic pigmentations are brought on by drugs. The palate frequently exhibits this pigmentation, which can be localised, diffuse, or multifocal in the oral mucosa. There is no swelling or nodularity, and the lesions are flat. Most often, discoloration goes away a few months after stopping the medicine; nevertheless, pigmentation brought on by hormonal treatments may persist a lifetime. Melanogenesis can be induced by medicines or metabolites, while the exact mechanism is uncertain.

Temporary discoloration (yellow to brown) is typically caused by the consumption of certain foods and beverages (tea, coffee), or by engaging in certain behaviours (using betel, cocaine, or crack), as well as certain medications (iron, bismuth, chlorhexidine, and antibiotics), as well as psychoactive substances that cause xerostomia.

8. Drug Induced Gingival Enlargement

Indications of gingival enlargement include the excessive growth of connective and epithelial tissues, which appear between one and three months after taking a particular drug. Usually, it involves the interdental papilla and may completely or partially conceal the tooth. It typically affects anterior teeth and is generalised. It rarely hurts, however during function it could get traumatised and sore. The length of drug use, dosage, and patients' oral hygiene are all connected to the severity of the enlargement.

The following medicines are the most frequent ones to expand the gingiva: Diltiazem, amlodipine, verapamil, nifedipine, felodipine, nisoldipine, and other calcium channel blockers, as well as the anticonvulsants phenytoin, sodium valproate, phenobarbitone, vigabatrin, primidone, and ethosuximide, and immunosuppressants tacrolimus, sirolimus, and cyclosporine.

9. Dental Caries

Dental caries is a risk due to food choices, poor oral hygiene, and dry mouth. Children's syrups that contain sugar lower PH and cause tooth cavities. Antifungal (nystatin oral tablet) and antibacterial treatments increase the incidence of dental caries since they contain sugar up to 60%. Additionally, antileptic medications and psychoactive drugs including heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, and cannabis can cause oral caries.

10. Dry socket

One of the most frequent side effects following the extraction of third molars is dry socket, also known as alveolar osteitis. This extremely painful condition usually appears one to three days after the tooth is removed. It happens when the clot inside the socket is removed. This phenomenon affects between 0.5 and 5% of people. OCPs may make dry socket more common. It might be connected to the OCP's fibrinolytic action, which disrupts coagulation. A local anesthetic's vasoconstrictor may be a factor in the development of a dry socket. The chance of developing dry socket is further increased by trauma, smoking, radiation, and bacteria.

11. Halitosis

After tooth decay and gum disease, malodor ranks third on the list of reasons why people seek dental care. Poor oral hygiene, dental caries, mouth infections, periodontal disease, systemic illnesses such as hepatic, renal, gastrointestinal, and upper airway infections, certain meals, or smoking can cause bad breath. However, additional medications including isosorbide dinitrate, cytotoxic agents, D-methyl sulfoxide, amyl-nitrate, disulfiram, paraldehyde, and chloral hydrate are the primary causes of halitosis. Halitosis can also be

associated to the indirect effects of pharmaceuticals that produce dry mouth. Halitosis can also be brought on by taking certain vitamins, like B6. Malodor and a hairy tongue are side effects of tetracycline. Penicillin, griseofulvin, lithium mineral, and medications containing iodine and bismuth are a few medications that might result in phantom or actual halitosis.

12. Xerostomia

The most frequent adverse drug-related effect in the mouth is xerostomia, or dry mouth. Xerostomia can have a variety of reasons. A frequent cause is pharmaceutical treatment. Antidepressants, antipsychotics, antihypertensives, antihistamines, anticholinergics, and decongestants are just a few of the more than 500 drugs that have been linked to xerostomia. In senior individuals who take many drugs (polypharmacy), the synergistic effects of pharmaceuticals have been acknowledged and are becoming more prevalent. Oral dryness or the sense of dryness may also be influenced by behaviours such as smoking, drinking alcohol, and even regular usage of caffeinated beverages. Clinical symptoms include speech and swallowing difficulties, trouble speaking, and a lack of saliva in the mouth, which could also be thick stringy saliva. (15).

13. Taste disorders

The loss of taste sharpness (hypogusia), loss of taste sensation (agusia), distortion of taste (dysgusia), and poor taste (paragusia) are all common taste abnormalities that are linked to several medicines. A strange, bitter, or metallic flavour may occasionally be present in the mouth as a result of a taste disturbance. Salivary excretion of medicines or their metabolites is one of the known methods, albeit the specific mechanism is yet unknown. Another explanation has to do with how medications affect taste receptors directly or indirectly through hyposalivation. It may have an impact on the patient's lifestyle or physical and mental health. The most often prescribed medications that cause taste disturbance include ACEI inhibitors, anti-thyroids, beta lactam, opiates and protease inhibitors, calcium channel blockers (nifedipin, diltiazem), chlorhexidine, anti-diabetic medicines (metformin), and antibiotics.

Management

The seriousness of a potential adverse medication reaction, such as anaphylactic shock, might often make quick intervention crucial. A cautious reintroduction of important medications should be taken into consideration when emergency treatment and the discontinuation of all medications are necessary. In any other case, one determines which medicine or medications should be removed as a trial using clinical benefit-risk judgment and support from investigations. If one or more of the medications are necessary for the patient, a problem occurs right away during withdrawal, the patient should be watched. Depending on the pathology and how quickly the medicine is eliminated from the body, different waiting periods will apply. For instance, permanent psoriatic skin reactions can take weeks to clear up once the medicine is removed, whereas urticaria typically goes away immediately. Alternative treatments for the underlying illness may be provided if necessary if the patient is visibly improving and improving in accordance with the prediction. The next most likely suspect should be taken into consideration, and the process should be repeated, if the patient is not doing well after stopping the first drug. The patient, on the other hand, might be experiencing pain as a result of the drug being withheld. (6)

Guidelines for treating cutaneous ADRs have been developed by the American Academy of Dermatology. In a drug eruption, there are five factors to take into account: (i) an evaluation of the eruption; (ii) the likelihood that the eruption and the drug are related; (iii) the potential seriousness of the eruption; (iv) management; and (v) prevention of recurrence. Finding out whether the oral manifestation began following

the use of a certain medication is the first step, and it is then required to assess whether the illness may be caused by the medication. (4).

CONCLUSION

Reactions observed beyond 2 weeks are less likely to be brought on by medication use because the majority of drug reactions happen within 1 to 2 weeks of the start of therapy. Some reactions are dose- or cumulative toxicity-dependent. Most drug-induced oral responses are mild to moderate in intensity. Many oral lesions and drug reaction symptoms can mimic systemic disorders and can be treated locally or occasionally systemically. (78).

ADR risk is influenced by a variety of patient- and drug-related variables. Age (highest prevalence in the young and old), sex (more prevalent in women), genetics (differences in metabolising enzymes may explain response variability), underlying disease (more prevalent in patients with disease, which decreases the ability to metabolise and clear a drug), and prior drug reactions are all factors relating to the patient. (4). An issue emerges when a patient is declared allergic to a drug and is consequently prohibited from receiving that drug or that set of pharmaceuticals in the future. In normal practise, ADRs are frequently mild and self-limiting.

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