

# **General principles of Differential Diagnosis**

- 1. History and examination of the patient**
- 2. The diagnosis sequence**

# Clinical pathology, a study of change



Purpose: overview of significance and application of medicine in the dentistry

The dentist does not only treat “teeth in patients  
“ but patients who have teeth or not”.

**History**

**Clinical pathology**

Clinical exam  
(radiographs if needed)

**Definitive Dx.**

**Working Dx.**

**Biopsy and/or  
Lab tests**

**Definitive Dx.**

**Tx by experience**

**Response to  
specific Rx**

**Resolution  
with no diagnosis**

**No resolution**

**Biopsy and/or  
Lab tests**

**Definitive Dx.**

## *IN the history taking, you have to do*



1. **To identify**—undetected systemic disease
2. **To identify** —taking drug or medicine as clue
3. **To modify**— treatment planning
4. **To protect** –medical-dental legal standpoint
5. **To communicate** –medical consultants
6. **To establish** –good patient-dentist relation ship

# The Diagnostic Sequence



1. Detection and examination of the **lesion**
2. Examination of the **patient**
  - Chief complaints
  - Onset and course
3. **Re-examination** of the lesion
4. **Classification** of the lesion
5. **Listing** the possible diagnosis
6. Developing the **differential diagnosis**
7. **Working diagnosis**
8. **Final diagnosis**

# 1. RECORDING THE IDENTIFYING DATA

## 2. HISTORY AND PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

### 3. CHIEF COMPLAINT

### 4. PRESENT ILLNESS

### 5. PAST MEDICAL HISTORY

- Family history
- Social history
- Occupational history
- Dental history

### 6. REVIEW OF SYMPTOMS BY SYSTEM

### 7. PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

- Radiologic examination

### 8. DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS

### 9. WORKING DIAGNOSIS

### 10. Medical laboratory studies

### 11. Dental laboratory studies

### 12. Biopsy

- Incisional
- Excisional
- Fine-needle aspiration
- Exfoliating cytology
- Toluidine blue staining

### 13. Consultation

### 14. FINAL DIAGNOSIS

### 15. TREATMENT PLAN

# 1. Detection and examination of the patient's lesion

- History taking
- Inspection
- Palpation
- Percussion
- Aspiration,
- Auscultation
- Radiographic examination
- Laboratory examination

# History Taking

- What, where, when, how
  - Chief complaint
  - Present illness
- Past medical history
  - Family history
  - Social history
  - Occupational history
  - Dental history
- Review of symptoms by system
- Physical examination
  - Radiographic examination

# Chief complaint(s)

1. Pain
2. Soreness
3. Burning sensation
4. Bleeding
5. Loose teeth
6. Recent occlusal problem
7. Delayed tooth eruption
8. Dry mouth
9. Too much saliva
10. Swelling
11. Bad taste
12. Halitosis
13. Parthnesia and anesthesia

# 1. Pain

-- Location, sharp or dull, severity, duration, precipitating circumstances

- Teeth
- Mucous membrane
- Salivary gland inflammation or infection
- Lesions of the jaw bone
- LN inflammation and /or inflammation
- TMD, MPD
- Sinus diseases
- Ear diseases
- Psychoses
- Angina pectoris, neuralgia ...

## **2.Soreness**

**-presence of mucosa inflammation or ulcers**

## **3.Burning sensation**

**-thinning or erosion of the surface epi.**

**✿ Burning mouth syndrome**

**✿ Xerostomic condition**

**✿ Anemia**

**✿ Vitamin deficiencies...**

**✿ Psychosis**

**✿ Neurosis**

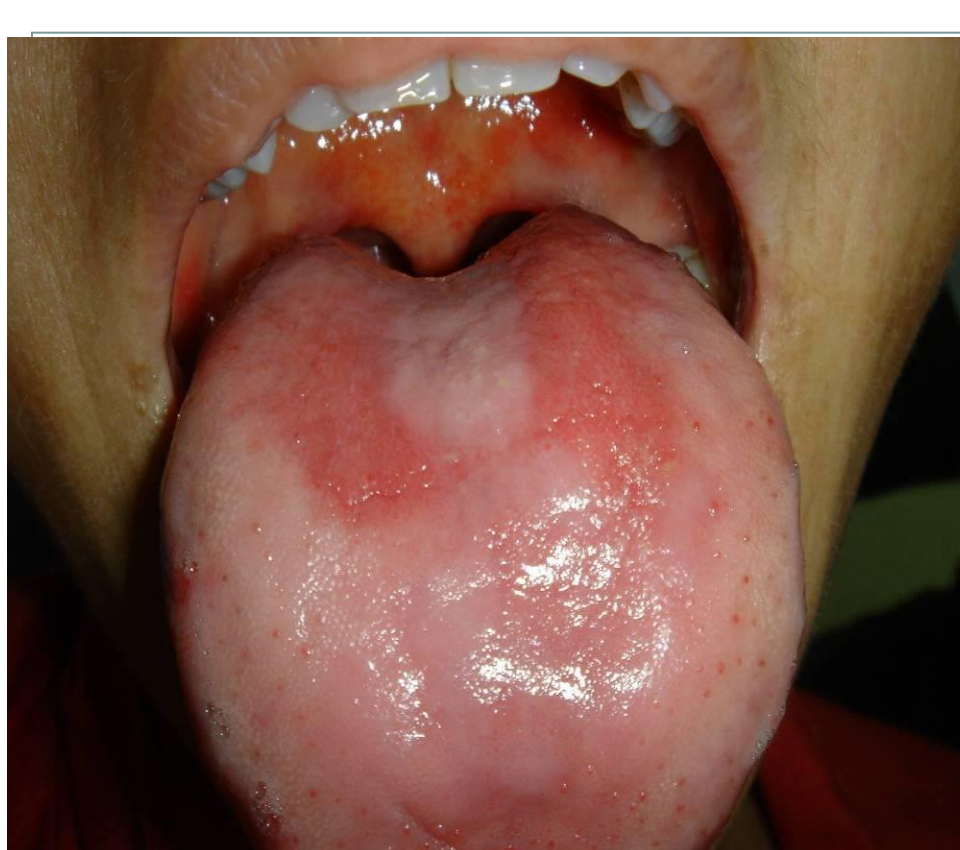
**✿ Viral, fungal or chronic bacterial infection**

# (Burning mouth syndrome)

- Gender effects : F:M = 3:1 ~ 7:1
- Age: Middle-aged and elderly-aged

## Local and systemic precipitating factors:

- Hematinic deficiency state
- Undiagnosed maturity onset diabetes
- Oral candidal infection
- Xerostomia
- Denture design faults
- Parafunction habits
- Cancerphobia
- Allergy
- Psychological state
- Drug induced
- Hypothyroid function
- (cancerphobia)



Vit. B<sub>12</sub> deficiency  
(Pernicious anemia)



After tx.

## 4. Bleeding



- Gingivitis and periodontal disease
- Traumatic incidence, surgery
- Inflammation
- Tumors (traumatized tumor or vascular tumors)
- Diseases associated with deficiencies in hemostasis

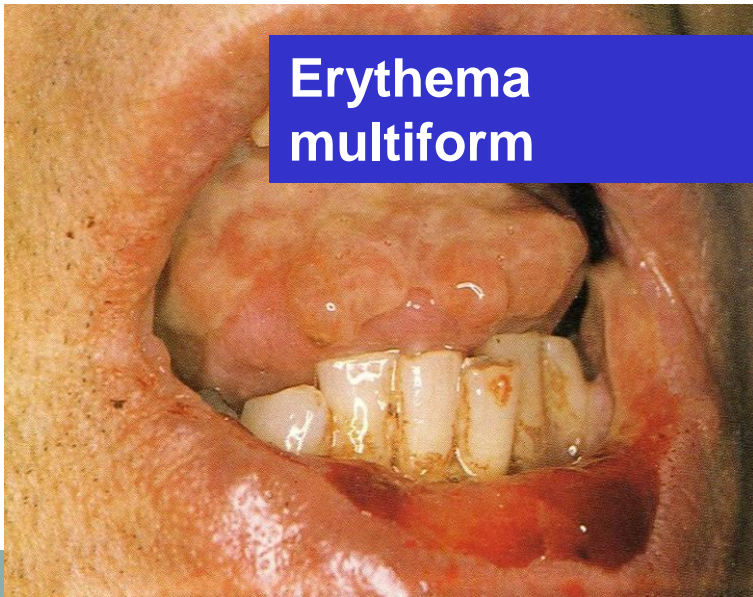
# Bleeding



**Periodontitis**



**Hematoma**



**Erythema  
multiform**



**leukemia**

## 5. Loose teeth

- Loss of supporting bone or resorption of roots
  - Perio. Problem
  - Trauma
  - Pulpoperiapical lesions
  - Normal resorption of primary teeth
  - Benign tumors-root resorption
  - Malignant tumors-supporting bone destruction

## 6.Recent occlusal problem



-recently teeth don't bite right or recently teeth are out of line

- Overcontoured restorations
- Periodontal disease, periapical abscess
- Traumatic injury, tooth fracture
- Tumor or cyst of tooth-bearing regions of the jaws
- Fibrous dysplasia...

## 7. Delayed tooth eruption

- Malposed eruption or impacted teeth
- Cyst
- Odontomas, mesiodens
- Sclerotic bone
- Tumors
- Maldevelopment
- Generalized delay...anodontia, cleidocranial dysplasia or hypothyroidism

# Delayed tooth eruption



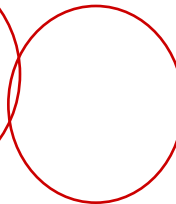
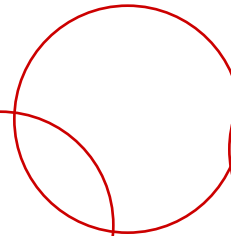
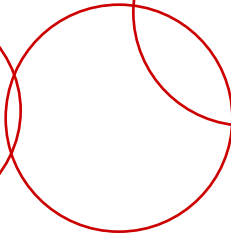
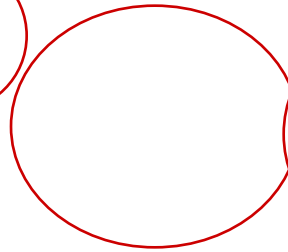
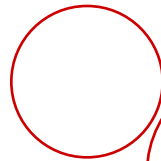
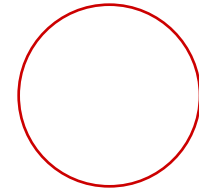
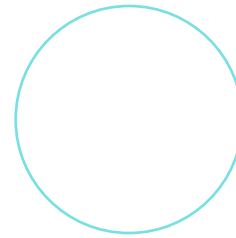
# Cleidocranial Dysplasia

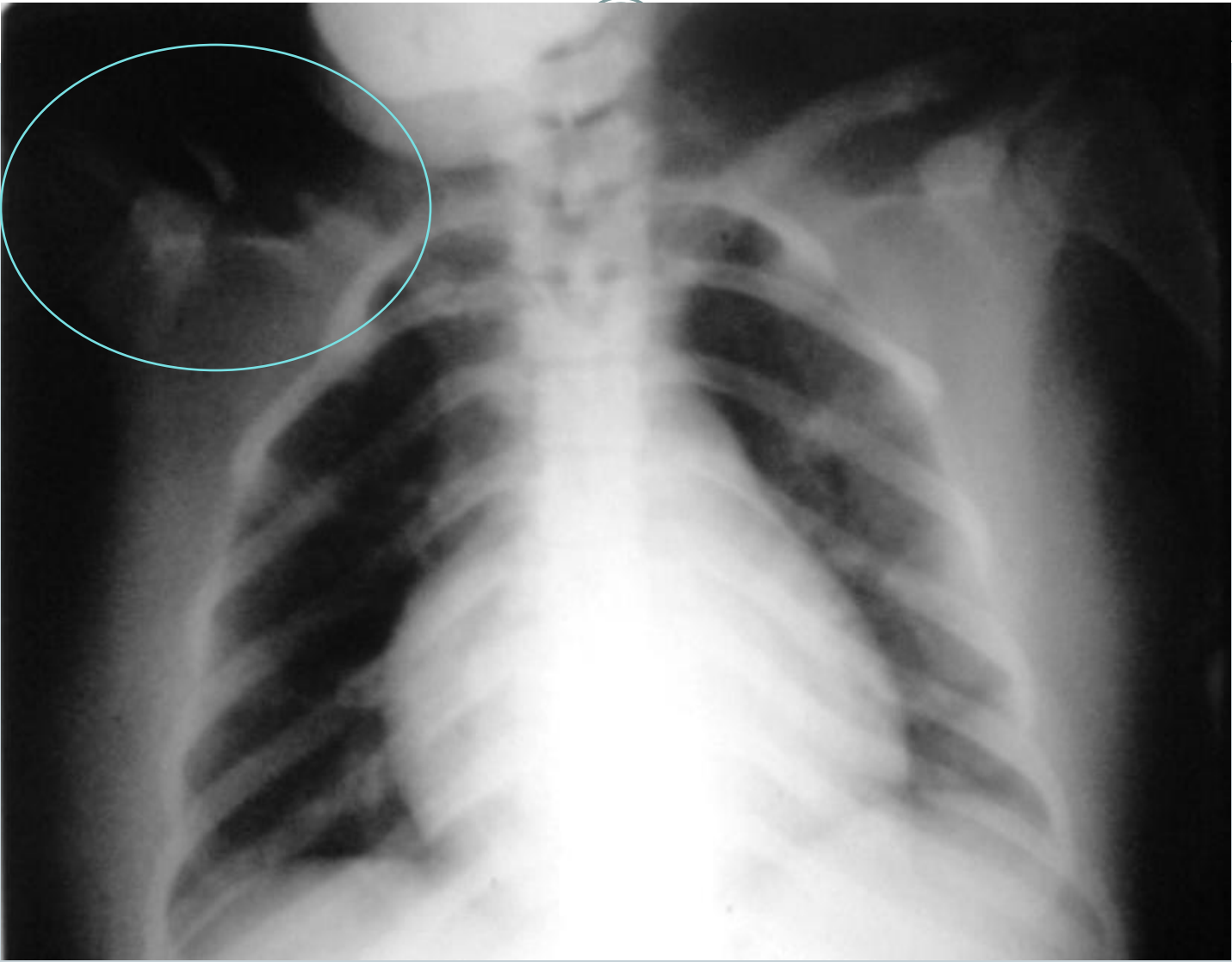


# Cleidocranial Dysplasia



# Cleidocranial Dysplasia





## 8. Dry mouth

- Local inflammation ○
- Infection and fibrosis of salivary gland
- Dehydration state
- Drug therapy
  - Tranquilizers
  - Diuretics
  - Antihistamines
  - Anticholinergics
- Autoimmune diseases
- H & N radiotherapy
- Chemotherapy
- Alcoholism
- Psychosis



## 9. Too much saliva

- may be related to psychosomatic problem
- New denture insertion, increased or decreased vertical dimension

## 10. Swelling

- Inflammations and infections
- Cysts
- Retention phenomena
- Tumors

# 11. Bad taste



- Aging
- Heavy smoking
- Poor oral hygiene
- Dental caries
- Periodontal disease
- Dry mouth
- Intraoral malignancies

- Diabetes
- Hypertension
- Medication
- Uremia
- Neurogenic disorder
- Psychosis

# 12.Halitosis



Originating from :

- Oral and dental regions
- Upper respiratory tract
- Gastro intestinal causes
- Systemic causes
- Drug induced & other

# Parasthesia and anesthesia

- **Injury to regional nerve**
  - Anesthesia needles
  - Jaw bone fracture
  - Surgical procedure
- **Malignancies**
- **Medication**
  - Sedatives, Tranquilizers, Hypnotics
- **Diabetes**
- **Pernicious anemia**
- **Acute infection of the jaw bone**
- **Psychosis**

# Onset and Courses

1. Masses increase in size just before eating

ex. salivary retention phenomena,  
sialolithiasis

2. Slow-growing masses (duration of months to years)

- 1) Reactive hyperplasia
- 2) Chronic infection
- 3) Cysts
- 4) Benign tumors



3. Moderately rapid-growing masses  
(weeks to about 2 months)

1) Chronic infection

2) Cysts

3) Malignant tumors

## 4. Rapidly growing masses (hrs to days)

- 1) Abscess (painful)
- 2) Infected cyst (painful)
- 3) Aneurysm
- 4) Salivary retention phenomena
- 5) Hematomas

## 5. Masses with accompanying fever

- 1) Infections
- 2) lymphoma, leukemia



# Inspection

- Contours
- Color
- Surfaces
- Aspiration



# Contours

Normal & variation

# Colors

Masticatory mucosa vs lining  
mucosa

# White

-thickening of  
epithelium or  
keratin

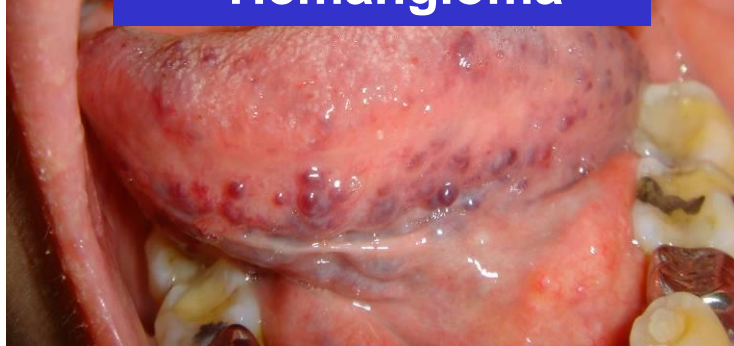
-dense fibrous  
tissue

ex.: leukoplakia (epi.  
hyperplasia, hyperkeratosis),  
VH, OSF





**Hemangioma**



## ○ *Red*

- thinning of epithelium
- inflammation
- increased vascularity

ex.: gingivitis,  
hemangioma

# Yellow

-adipose  
tissue

-sebaceous  
gland

ex.: lipoma, Fordyce's  
granule



Fordyce's  
granule

*Brownish, bluish, black*

-pigmentation, melanin, hemosiderin, heavy metal,  
pool of clear fluid

ex: nevus, amalgam tattoo ,  
hemangioma, mucocele

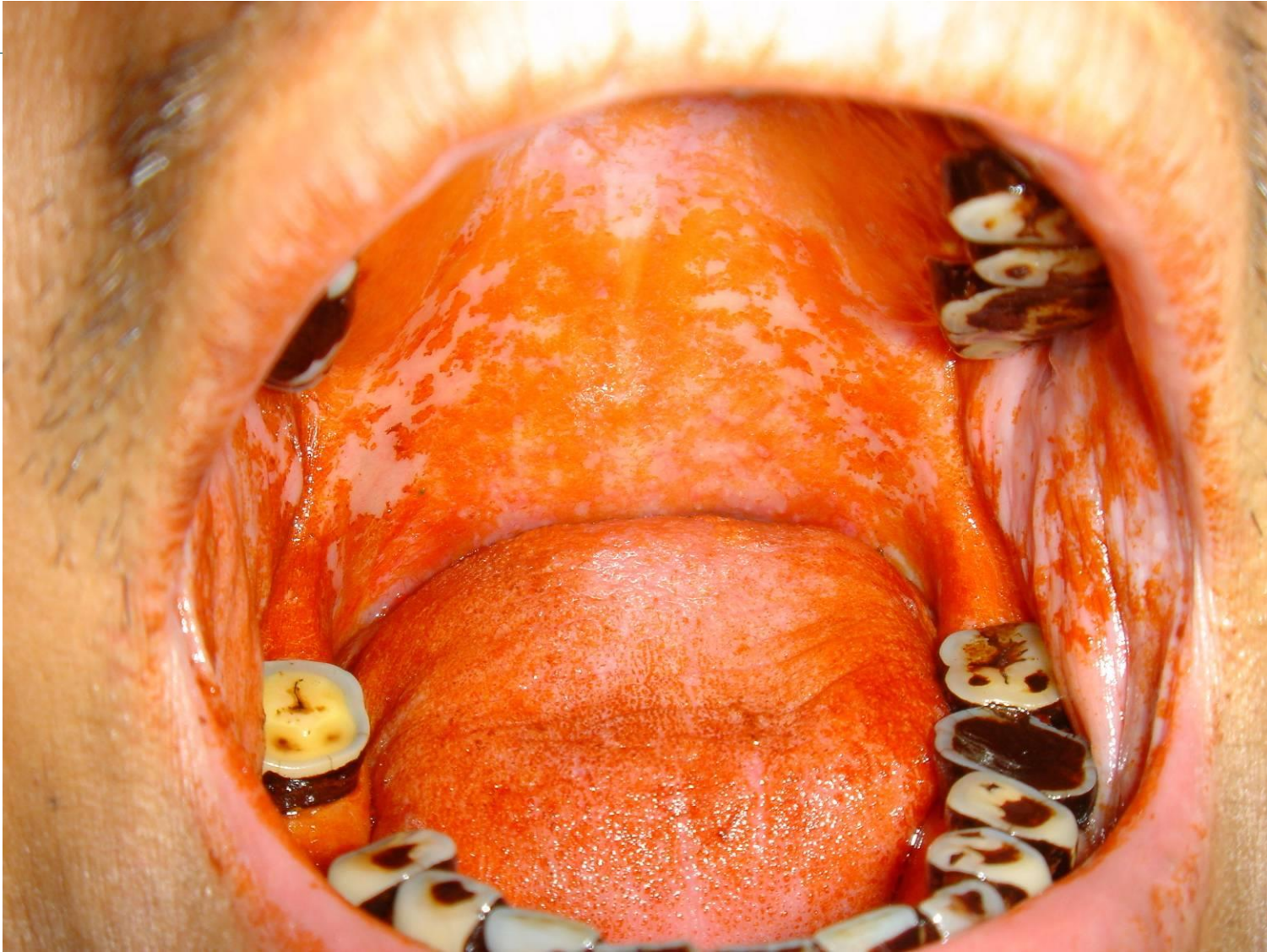


**Peutz-Jegher's  
syndrome**



**mucocele**

# Betel nut chewer's mucosa



# Surfaces

Normal --smooth & glistening,  
except dorsal tongue, rugae & attached  
gingiva



# Pathologic mass may be--

## 1) *Smooth surface*

-arises **beneath epi**, originates from mesenchyme

ex : benign & early malig. **salivary gland** tumors,  
benign & malig. **mesenchymal T.**  
( fibroma, osteoma, hemangioma,  
myoma...), **cellulitis, mucocele...**

## 2) *Rough surface*

-except due to trauma, infection and malign., originates in the **epithelium**

Ex: papilloma, VH, V.ca, ulcerative & exophytic SCC  
polypoid or papillomatous mass

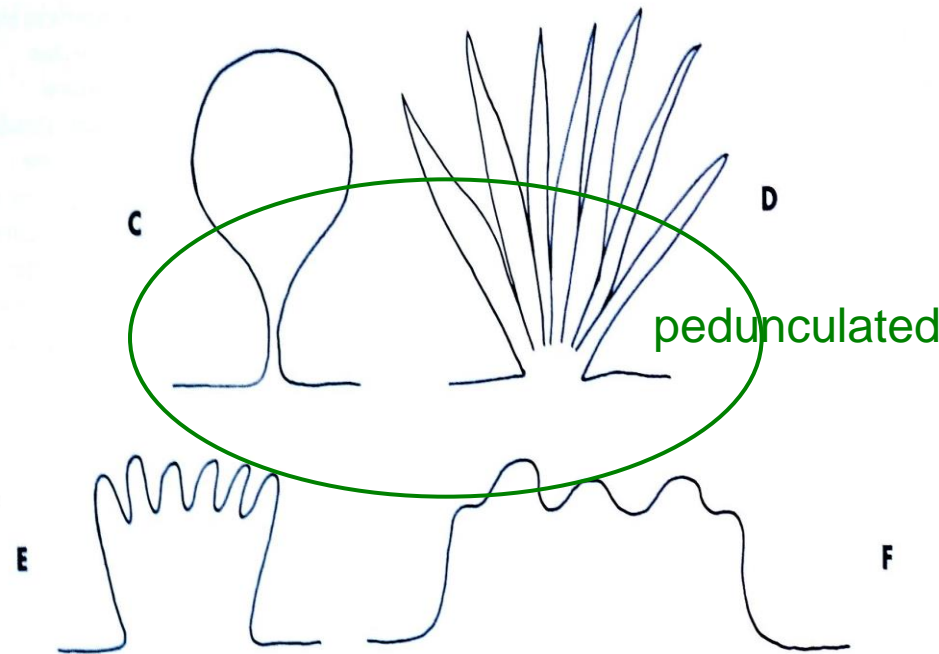


Fig. 10-1. Various shapes of exophytic lesions. A, Nodular. (A papular mass is a nodule measuring less than 0.5 cm.) B, Dome shaped. C, Polypoid. D, Papillomatous. E, Verrucous. F, Bosselated.



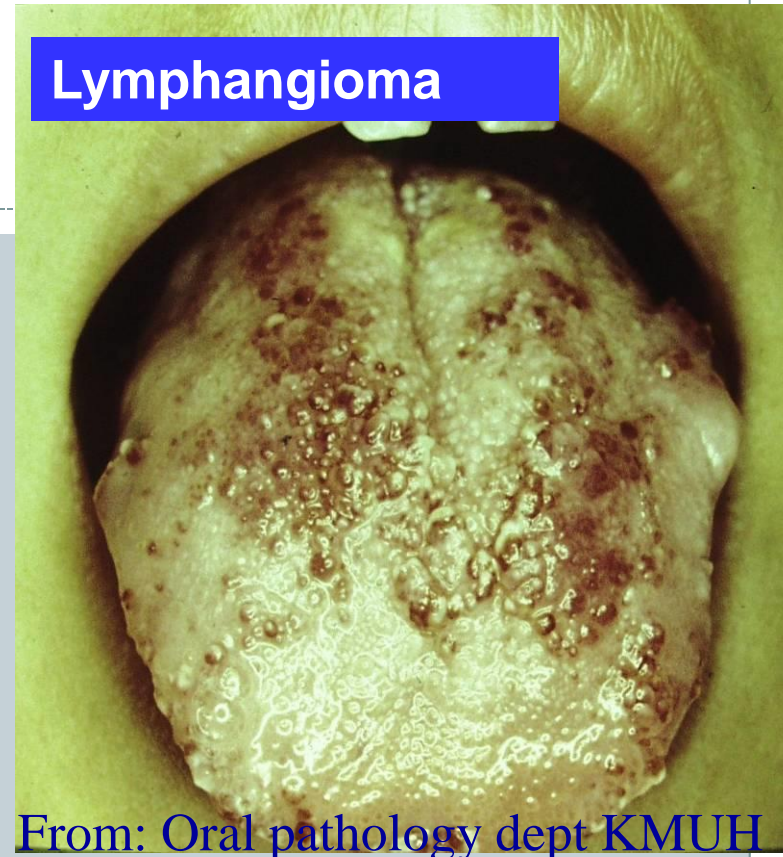
### 3) *Pebbly surface*

-granular cell tumor,  
lymphangioma

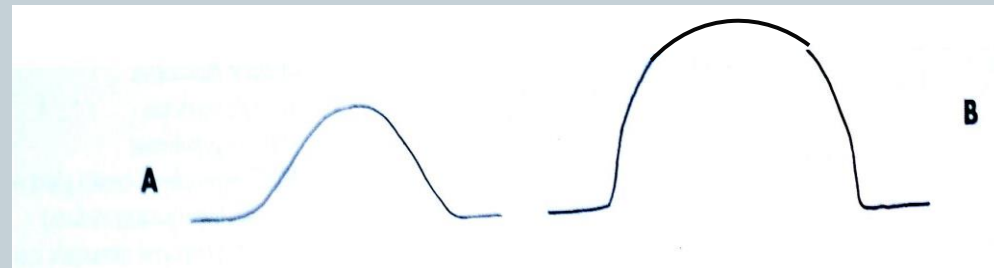
### 4) *Flat & raised entities*

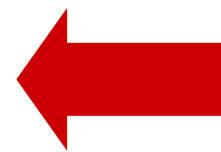
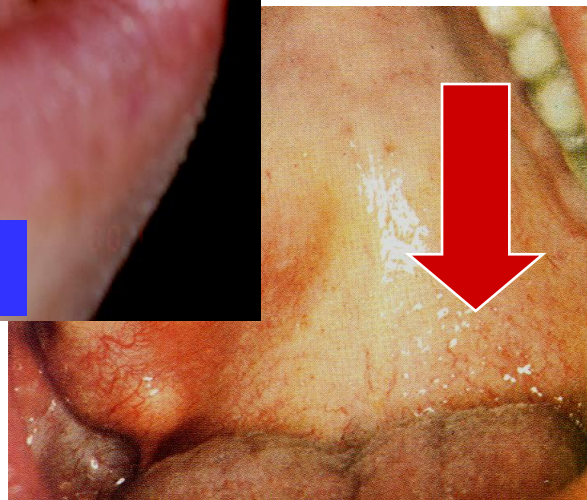
-Hyperplasia (cell  
number $\uparrow$ ) & hypertrophy  
(cell size $\uparrow$ )  
papule, nodule

Lymphangioma



From: Oral pathology dept KMHU





**Mixed tumor**

# Palpation

*--A third eye of clinical examination*

- Surface temperature
- Anatomic regions & planes involved
- Mobility
- Extent
- Size & shape
- Consistency
- Fluctuance & emptiability
- Painless, tender or painful
- Unilateral or bilateral
- Solitary or multiple

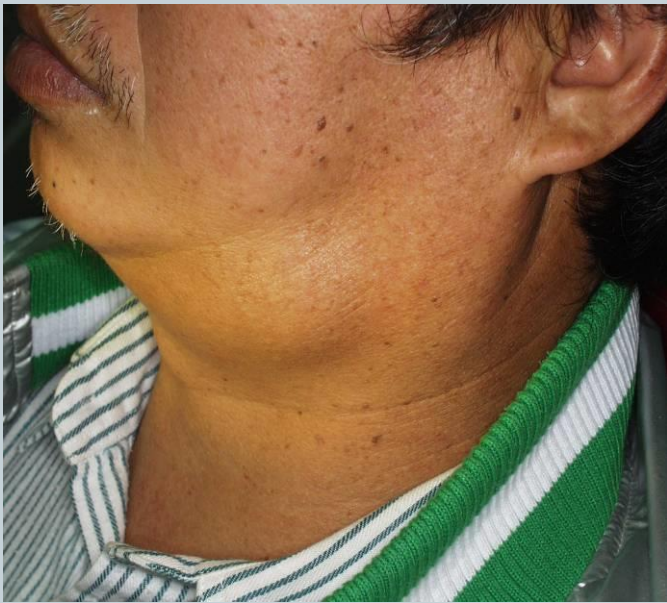
# Surface temperature



- Temperature↑,
  - Inflamed or infected
  - Vascular problems, ex. aneurysm, AV shunts

## Anatomic regions & planes involved

- Locates a firm mass, superficial or deep
- Difficult if swelling or painful



# Mobility



1. free movable
2. fixed to skin but not to the underlying tissue
3. free movable to the skin but fixed to the underlying tissue

4. bound to both skin or mucosa  
and to the underlying tissue



- 1) **fibrosis** after a previous inflammation
- 2) **malignancy** from skin or mucosa  
invade to underlying tissue
- 3) **malignancy** from deeper tissue invade  
to surface epithelium
- 4) **malignancy** from loose CT to both the  
superficial & the deeper layers

# Extent

- Border of a mass :  
well defined, moderate defined or poor defined
- depend on :
  - Border of the mass
  - Consistency of surrounding tissue
  - Thickness of overlying tissue
  - Sturdiness of underlying tissue

# Size & Shape

## Fluctuance & emptiability

- Fluid containing lesion
- Cyst, mucocele, ranula, hemangioma

Ranula

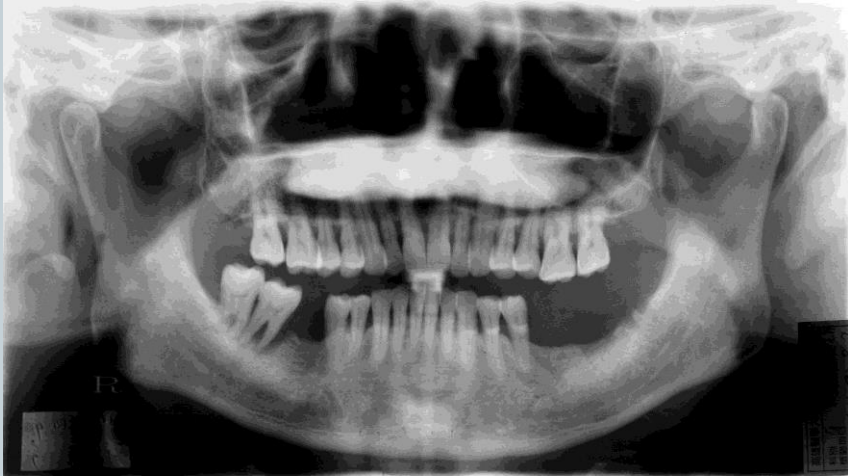


## Consistency

- **Soft:** vein, loose CT, glandular tissue
- **Cheesy:** sebaceous cyst, epidermoid cyst
- **Rubbery:** relaxed muscle, glandular tissue with capsule, arteries
- **Firm:** fibrous tissue, tensed muscle, large nerve
- **Bony hard:** bone, cartilage, tooth structure



## Torus palatini or exostosis



# Painless, tender or painful

## Pain

- 1.inflammation-- mechanical trauma or infection
- 2.painful tumors--some neural tumors
- 3.sensory nerve encroachment

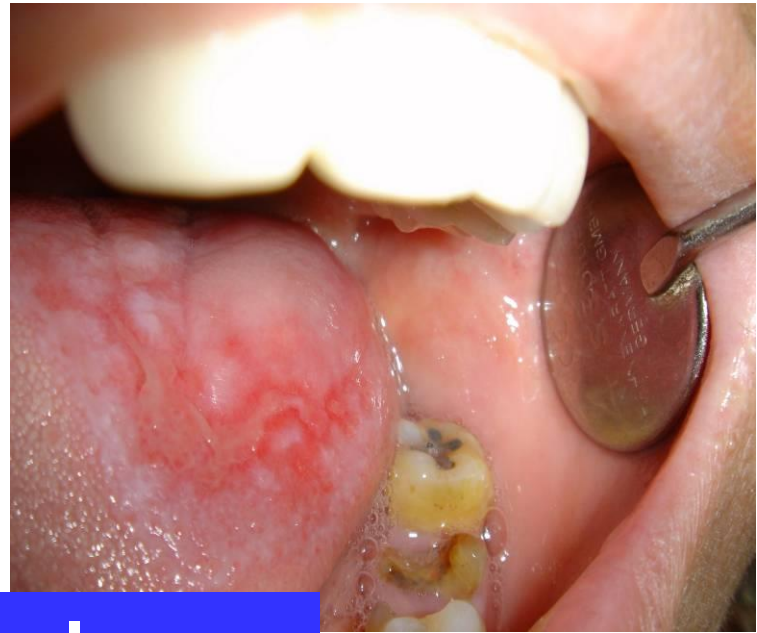
## Tenderness

low-grade inflammation & internal pressure,  
chronic infection

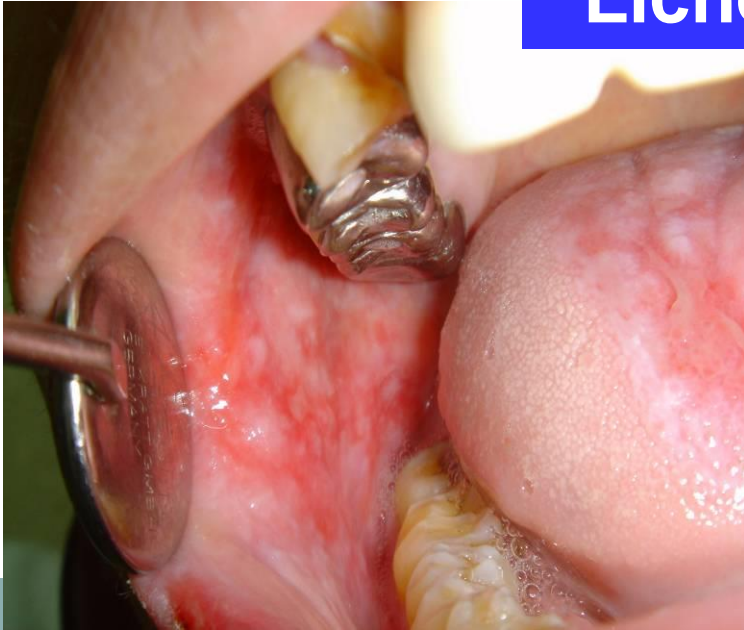
Unilateral or bilateral

## **Solitary or multiple**

- **Solitary** : a local benign or early malignancy
- **Multiple** : systemic, disseminated diseases or syndrome



**Lichen planus**



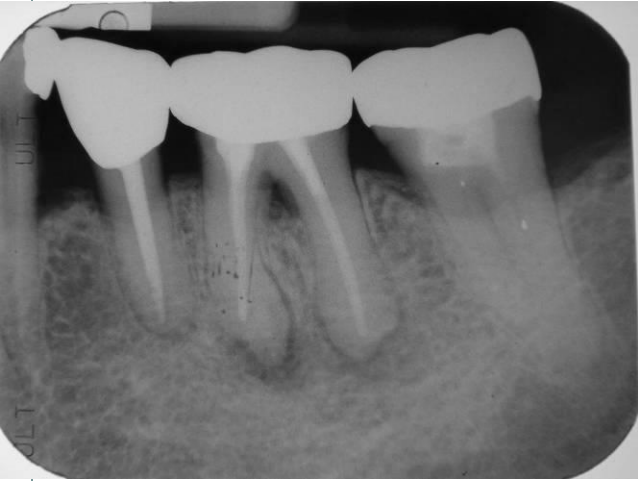


## Aspiration

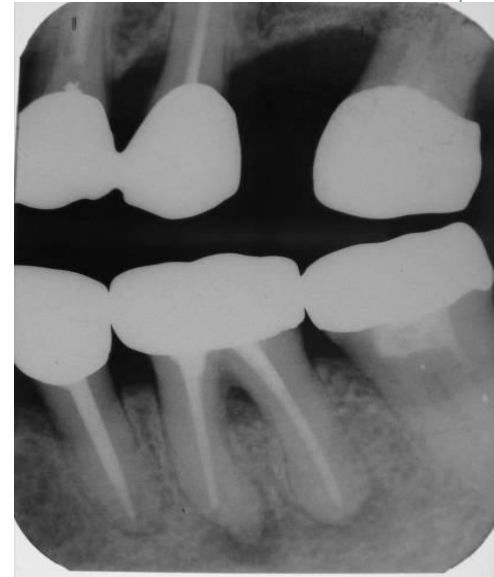
--Investigate the fluid contents of the lesions

- Cyst
- Tumor
  - Pus
  - Sticky, clear, viscous fluid

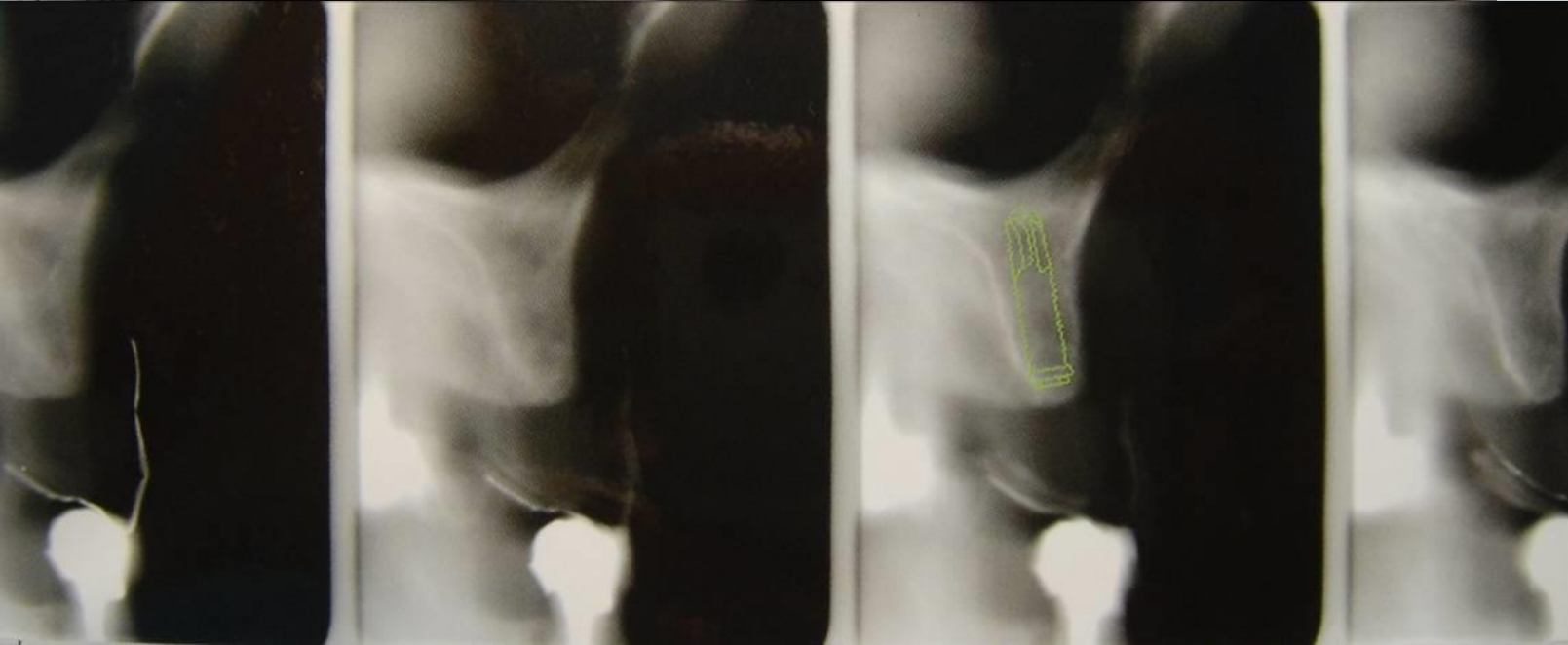
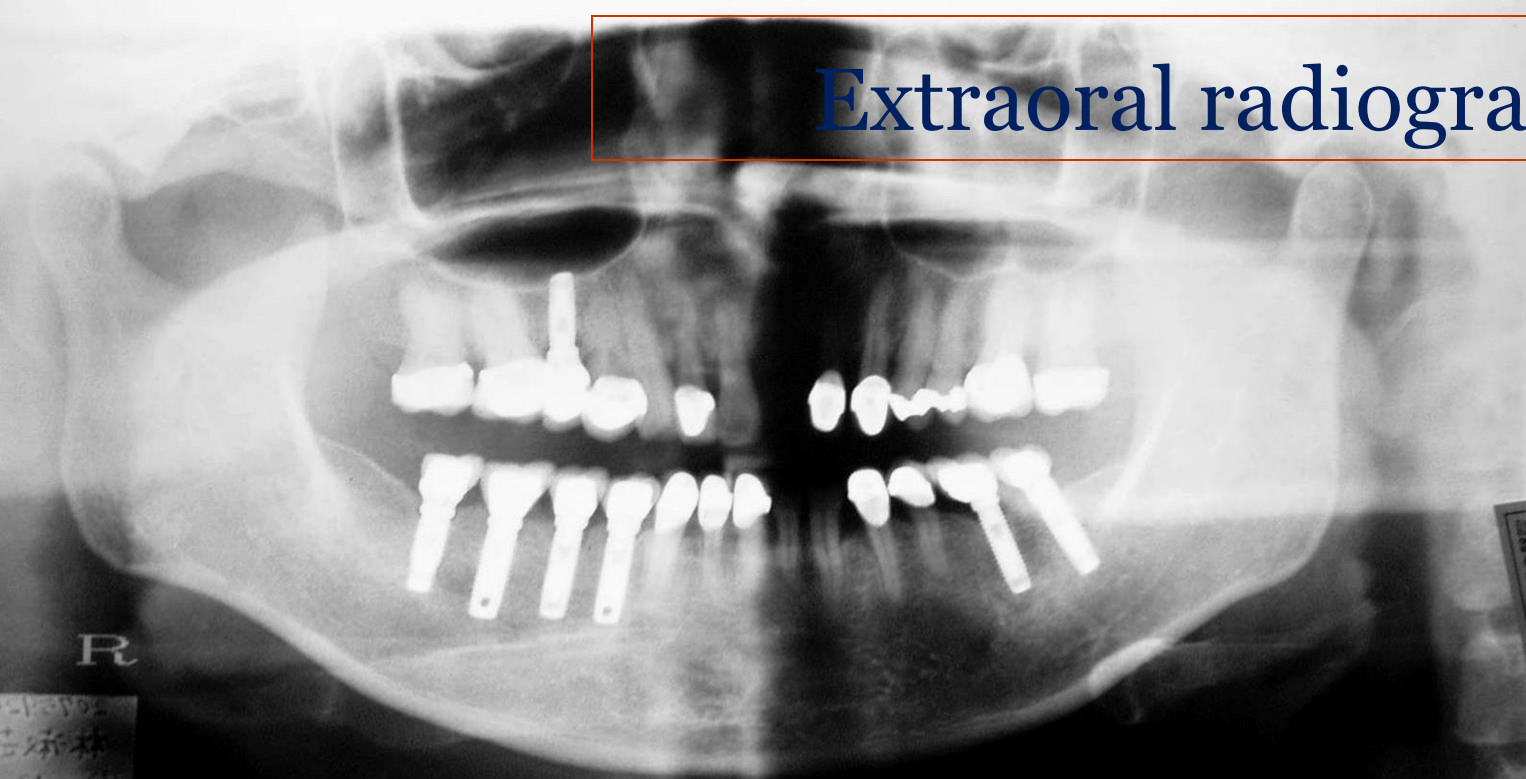
# Radiographic examination



Intraoral



# Extraoral radiographs





artifact

## **Re-examination of the lesion**

- Re-evaluate his origin findings or detailed observation

## **Classification of the lesion**

Soft tissue origin ? Bone origin?

- Subclassified: soft tissue → white, exophytic, ulcerative, etc  
or bone lesion → periapical, cystic like, radiolucency, multiple separate, etc.

## **Listing the possible diagnosis**

- Clinically and /or radiographically

## **Developing the possible diagnosis**

- Sign—symptoms—statistical knowledge relate to the incidence of each disease entity—in order of their relative frequency of occurrence
- Age, gender, race, country of origin, anatomic location

**GENDER PREDILECTION OF SOFT TISSUE LESIONS (RATIOS OR PERCENTS ARE GIVEN IN PARENTHESES)**

**Male**

Cancer (except minor salivary gland tumors and metastatic carcinoma from distant sites)  
Lymphoma (2:1)  
Melanoma (2:1)  
Metastatic carcinoma to cervical nodes  
Squamous cell carcinoma (3:1 to 2:1)  
    Buccal (10:1)  
    Floor (93%)  
    Lip (98%)  
    Tongue (75%)  
Verrucous carcinoma (3:1)  
Erythema multiforme  
Hemochromatosis  
Keratoacanthoma (2:1)  
Leukoplakia  
Lymphoepithelial cyst (3:1)  
Median rhomboid glossitis  
Mucocele  
Radiation mucositis

**Female**

Benign mucous membrane pemphigoid (2:1)  
Desquamative gingivitis  
Geographic tongue (2:1)  
Hemangioma  
Lichen planus (2:1)  
Lipoma (7:1 or equal)  
Palatal tori (2:1)  
Peripheral giant cell granuloma (2:1)  
Peripheral fibroma with calcification  
Plasma cell gingivitis  
Pyogenic granuloma (3:1)  
Ranula

**GENDER PREDISPOSITION OF BONY LESIONS**

**Male**

**Cancer**

Chondrosarcoma  
Ewing's sarcoma (2:1)  
Lymphoma (2:1)  
Melanoma (2:1)  
Multiple myeloma (2:1)  
Osteogenic sarcoma  
Squamous cell carcinoma  
    Central (2:1)  
    Peripheral (3:1 to 2:1)

**Cherubism**

Eosinophilic granuloma (2:1)  
Hand-Schüller-Christian disease (2:1)  
Incisive canal cyst (3:1)  
Lingual mandibular bone cavity  
Osteoblastoma  
Osteoid osteoma (2:1)  
Osteomyelitis (5:1)  
Residual cyst (2:1)  
Traumatic bone cyst

**Female**

**Cancer**

Metastatic carcinoma  
Minor salivary gland tumors  
Central giant cell granuloma (2:1)  
Central hemangioma (2:1)  
Osteoporosis  
Periapical cemental dysplasia  
Primary hyperparathyroidism (7:1)  
Florid cementoosseous dysplasia  
Secondary hyperparathyroidism (2:1)

# JAWBONE AND REGIONAL PREDILECTION OF BONY LESIONS

## **Mandible and Predominant Region**

Ameloblastic fibroma (molar, premolar)  
Ameloblastoma (80%; posterior, 70%)  
Aneurysmal bone cyst (much more common in molar)  
Benign nonodontogenic tumors (molar, ramus)  
Caffey's disease  
Calcifying odontogenic cyst (70%)  
Cancer  
    Acute leukemia (molar)  
    Ewing's sarcoma  
    Metastatic carcinoma (95%; molar, premolar)  
    Osteogenic sarcoma (body)  
    Reticulum cell sarcoma (molar, angle, ramus)  
    Squamous cell carcinoma  
        Peripheral (3:1, molar)  
        Central (2:1)  
Cementifying and/or ossifying fibroma (molar, premolar)  
Cementoblastoma (first molar, premolar)  
Cementoma (90%; incisor)  
Central giant cell granuloma (65%; two thirds are anterior to molar)  
Central hemangioma (65%; ramus, premolar)  
Cherubism (ramus, third molar)  
Complex odontoma  
Condensing osteitis  
Eosinophilic granuloma  
Follicular cyst

Garré's osteomyelitis  
Odontogenic fibroma  
Odontogenic keratocyst (65%)  
Odontogenic myxoma (molar, premolar)  
Osteomyelitis (7:1; body)  
Pindborg tumor (2:1; molar, premolar)  
Postextraction sockets  
Primordial cyst (third molar)  
Proliferative periostitis  
Sclerosing cemental masses

## **Maxilla and Predominant Region**

Adenomatoid odontogenic tumor (canine)  
Chondrosarcoma (2:1)  
Compound odontoma  
Fibrous dysplasia (4:3)  
Paget's disease (20:3)  
Residual cyst (65%)

## **Rare in Maxilla**

Caffey's disease  
Cementifying and/or ossifying fibroma  
Ewing's sarcoma  
Osteomyelitis  
Proliferative periostitis  
Reticulum cell sarcoma  
Traumatic bone cyst

# Two or more lesions present

## 1. Lesions are related

- a. Lesion A and lesion B are identical (ex. 2 aphthous ulcers)
- b. Lesion B is secondary to lesion A (ex. metastatic tumor and primary)
- c. Lesion A and lesion B are both secondary to a third lesion, which may be occult (ex. metastatic tumors and primary)
- d. Lesion A and lesion B are manifestation of a systemic disease (ex. infections, Langerhan's cell disease. Disseminated malignancy)
- e. Lesion A and lesion B form part of a syndrome (ex. café-au-late spots and multiple neurofibromatosis in von Recklinghausen's disease)

## 2. Lesions are completely unrelated to each other and occur together only by chance

## **Developing the working diagnosis**

**(=operational diagnosis, tentative diagnosis, clinical impression)**

- Further exam. the lesion, more definitive questions to expand the history, additional tests —reevaluating all the assembled pertinent data

## **Formulating the final diagnosis**

- Biopsy---microscopic examination



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## Biopsy

- Artifact: improper fixation, freezing, curling of the specimen
- Specimen should be identified with :  
patient's name, clinician's name,  
location of the lesion, patient history

Exfoliative cytology

Toluidine blue staining



## Excisional biopsy

- when lesion  $\leq 1\text{cm}$ , does not necessitate a major surgical procedure

# Incisional biopsy

- too large to excision, may require multiple tissue samples
- Most suspect area, should be relatively large and deep and include the junction with surrounding normal tissue
- Necrotic tissue, electrosurgery should be avoided as possible

- **Punch biopsies:** used on surface oral tissue (trismus patient)
- **Wedge-shaped biopsies:** used for vesiculoerosive disease
- **Fine-needle aspiration ( fine-needle aspiration FNA, aspiration biopsy ) : 21-23 gauge.**

## Exfoliative cytology

- Fungal or viral disease or malignant-appearing cells
- Not used in smooth-surfaced exophytic lesion, homogeneous leukoplakia, submucosa lesions, unulcerated pigmented lesions, verruca vulgaris, papilloma

## Toluidine blue staining

- Stained with 1 % Toluidine blue, then washed or rinsed with 1% acetic solution
- Toluidine blue is an acidophilic metachromatic nuclear dye, selectively stains acidic tissue esp. DNA and RNA (affinity DNA > RNA).
- False positive 8-10%, false negative 6-7%

# Summary

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**3. CHIEF COMPLAINT**

**4. PRESENT ILLNESS**

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- Family history
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- Dental history

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