

Keywords:

Introduction

Gingival hyperplasia is a clinical condition characterized by an excessive growth of gingival tissue, leading to swollen, inflamed, and overgrown gums. This condition can be caused by various factors, including systemic diseases, medications, and local irritants. The pathogenesis involves an imbalance in the gingival tissue's homeostasis, often mediated by inflammatory responses and cellular proliferation. Understanding the underlying mechanisms and clinical manifestations is crucial for effective diagnosis and management.

Types of gingival hyperplasia

Gingival hyperplasia can be classified into several types based on the underlying cause. The most common type is drug-induced gingival hyperplasia, which is often associated with the use of anticonvulsants, immunosuppressants, and calcium channel blockers. Another type is systemic disease-related hyperplasia, which can be seen in conditions like leukemia and certain endocrine disorders. Local factors such as poor oral hygiene, plaque accumulation, and ill-fitting dental appliances can also lead to gingival hyperplasia.

Causes of gingival hyperplasia

The primary causes of gingival hyperplasia are categorized into systemic and local factors. Systemic causes include the use of certain medications, such as phenytoin, cyclosporine, and nifedipine, which can directly stimulate gingival growth. Systemic diseases like leukemia and certain endocrine disorders, such as acromegaly, can also lead to this condition. Local causes include poor oral hygiene, plaque accumulation, and the presence of ill-fitting dental appliances that irritate the gingiva.

Systemic diseases and conditions

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Systemic diseases and conditions can significantly contribute to the development of gingival hyperplasia. These include leukemia, which is characterized by abnormal proliferation of white blood cells, and certain endocrine disorders like acromegaly, which involves excessive growth hormone production. Additionally, the use of certain medications, such as anticonvulsants and immunosuppressants, can lead to gingival overgrowth. Understanding these systemic factors is essential for a comprehensive clinical evaluation.

Symptoms of gingival hyperplasia

The symptoms of gingival hyperplasia typically include swollen, inflamed, and overgrown gums. Patients may experience bleeding during brushing or flossing, and the gums may appear red and tender. The overgrowth of gingival tissue can lead to a "puffy" appearance and may interfere with normal oral functions. In severe cases, the hyperplastic tissue can cover a significant portion of the teeth, leading to aesthetic concerns and potential complications with dental procedures.

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Diagnosis and treatment

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