

Pediatric Geographic Tongue

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Type of Publication: Case Report

Conflicts of Interest: Nil

Abstract

Observation

A 10-years old female patient visited the Service of Pediatric Dentistry in Consultations and Dental Treatments Center in Rabat, Morocco, her main complaint was the appearance of white patches on her tongue 2 months earlier. These lesions had been treated with topical antifungal drugs for presumed oral candidiasis, but it's remained unchanged. Her mother stated that the patches changed size, shape, and site on the dorsum of the tongue since their first appeared.

The patient stated that the same symptoms appeared and disappeared on their own 6 months earlier. Medical and dental history was not significant. On general physical examination, the child showed no sign of systemic involvement.

A lingual examination revealed multiple erythematous patches with an annular, well- demarcated white border.



What is your diagnosis..?

- Lichen planus
- Geographic tongue
- Oral candidiasis
- Oral hairy leukoplakia

Comment

A diagnosis of geographic tongue, also known as benign migratory glossitis, was made on the basis of the patient's clinical history and the pathognomonic sign of the migrant red lingual patch.

Geographic tongue is a benign inflammatory condition that affects approximately 2% of the world's population. The condition is commonly seen in adults but few cases are reported in children. The etiology of this lesion is not well understood. The classic manifestation is a map-like distribution of erythema caused by atrophy of the filiform papillae of the tongue, surrounded by a white hyperkeratotic rim. The lesions typically disappear with no treatment not leaving a scar; however, they may develop in other areas of the tongue.

The differential diagnosis of geographic tongue includes leukoplakia, lichen planus, and candidiasis. Geographic tongue is usually asymptomatic, as in this case, but

symptoms can include pain or a burning sensation that is triggered by eating spicy or acidic foods. When asymptomatic, geographic tongue does not require treatment. We advised the patient to maintain higher oral hygiene and regular follow-up visits.

References

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