

RARE CASE OF DIPHTHERITIC ANGINA IN THE TONGUE AND FLOOR OF THE MOUTH

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INTRODUCTION

Diphtheria is an acute infection caused by the gram-positive bacillus *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*, a commensal bacteria found in the pharynx [1] which commonly affect the mucosa of the upper respiratory tract. There is a characteristic presence of greyish pseudomembranes at the tonsils, pharynx, nasal mucosa, or larynx, but it rarely involves other anatomical structures.[2,3].

OBJECTIVE

Describe an unusual case of diphtheria in the tongue and floor of the mouth, as well as an update of current publications on the subject of this uncommon clinical presentation.

CASE REPORT

15-year-old: Male patient

Symptoms: dyspnoea, dysphagia, odynophagia, non-quantified febrile episodes.

6 days of evolution

Slight increase in volume in the left buccal region (fluctuating and painful to palpation) and labial incompetence associated



Ulcerative lesions in the vermillion of the lower lip, and an increase in the volume of the tongue. This was associated with erythematous areas with indurated, non-detachable, whitish-greyish plaques at the level of the dorsum, lateral borders, the ventral side of the tongue, and the floor of the mouth

INTRAORALLY

Bacteriological culturing with a tellurite-containing medium

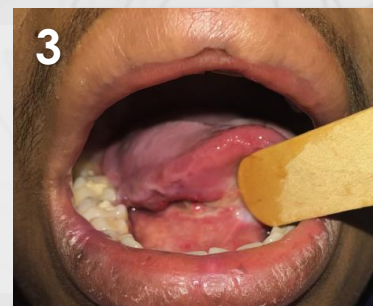
DIAGNOSIS: DIPHTHERIA

MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

(Internal Medicine and otolaryngology services)

TREATMENT

Isolation
Procaine and penicillin IM
Aithromycin VO
Antitoxin 40.000 IU
Diphtheria toxoid 0.5 cc
Dexamethasone
Rinses with bicarbonate water



After 14 days, he had improved satisfactorily

CONCLUSION

Diphtheria is still prevalent endemically and is responsible for fulminating complications. Associated factors, such as inadequate vaccination schedules and low socioeconomic status, can contribute to its high mortality. Oral and maxillofacial surgeons should be familiar with its etiology and clinical characteristics, because late treatment can lead to severe systemic involvement.

THE AUTHORS DECLARE THAT THEY HAVE NO CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

1. Byard RW. Diphtheria – 'The strangling angel' of children. J Forensic Leg Med 2013;20:65–8. 2. Tiwari T. Diphtheria. International Encyclopedia of Public Health, Vol 2, 2nd ed Academic Press; 2017. 3. George RC. Diphtheria. Medicine 2005;33:31–3