

Clinical picture

Gingival localization of extramedullary multiple myeloma

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Clinical picture

A 75-year-old man was referred, by his private dental practitioner, to the emergency room of our institution (ASST Santi Paolo e Carlo, Ospedale San Paolo, Milan, Italy), in May 2019, because of a fast-growing intraoral mass, not improved after a professional oral hygiene session and after two weeks of local rinses with the antiseptic chlorhexidine. In the clinical history, the patient reported being affected, since 2014, by multiple myeloma (stage IIIB according to Durie-Salmon Staging System; stage III according to International Staging System), respiratory and renal failures and favism. Intraoral examination revealed the presence of a painless mucosal swelling, multi-lobulated, red-purplish in colour, localized at left mandibular gingiva, extending to the alveolar fornix (Figure). The consistency was elastic-soft at the top of the lesion, while hard and firm at the basis. Since orthopantomography did not show any sign of dental-associated bone lesions, a multiple incisional biopsy was performed, under the clinical suspicion of a malignant neoplasm. Differential diagnosis of a purplish gingival growing mass included pyogenic granuloma, haemangioma, Kaposi's sarcoma, haematological and mesenchymal neoplasia.

The histopathological diagnosis revealed the presence of plasma cell myeloma with oral localization. The prescription of the jawbones CT scan, which showed no evidence of bone lesions, guided to the final diagnosis of extramedullary disease of multiple myeloma. The patient was, thus, further referred to his haematologist for the oncological management, which included a cycle of localized radiotherapy. Oral manifestations of multiple myeloma are uncommon, although in about 8-15% of cases they could be the first clinical sign of disease. When present, oral lesions may include gingival swelling, orofacial pain and paraesthesia, osteolytic bone lesions, fractures of the jawbones. Extra- and intra-oral examination is pivotal to detect the full extent and severity of this life-threatening disease.



Figure legend

Red-purplish, multi-lobulated gingival swelling, extending to the alveolar fornix

Quiz

Gingival fast-growing mass

A 75-year-old man, affected by multiple myeloma, respiratory and renal failures, and favism, reported a rapidly growing, painless, red-purplish gingival mass, which not improved after a professional oral hygiene session and two weeks of topical antiseptic therapy. Which is the final diagnosis?

- Kaposi's sarcoma
- Gingival hyperplasia associated to chronic renal disease
- Gingival localization of multiple myeloma
- Pyogenic granuloma

Conflict of interests

Authors have no conflict of interests to disclose.

Contributors section

N.L. reviewed the manuscript and followed the patient during diagnosis; A.F. followed the patient during diagnosis; R.F. followed the patient during diagnosis; D.S. collected clinical data; G.L reviewed the manuscript and followed the clinical case; E.V. followed the clinical case, collected the clinical data and wrote the manuscript. Written informed consent was obtained.