

Chapter 1

VIRAL-INDUCED ORAL VESICULOBULLOUS LESIONS: CLINICAL ASPECTS, DIAGNOSIS, AND MANAGEMENT

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INTRODUCTION

Vesiculobullous lesions within the oral mucosa encompass a spectrum of diseases that warrant special attention, frequently emerging as prominent entities among the various pathologies afflicting the soft tissues of the mouth. Among these, the manifestations induced by viral infections demand particular consideration due to their contagious potential. Typically arising from reactivation events prompted by viral agents, these oral vesiculobullous lesions often give rise to issues such as pain, discomfort, and a notable decline in the patient's overall quality of life.

This chapter aims to provide a comprehensive exploration of the etiology, clinical attributes, and management strategies pertinent to viral infections that serve as triggers for oral vesiculobullous lesions.

1. HERPES SIMPLEX LESIONS

1.1. Etiology

Herpes Simplex Virus Type-1 (HSV-1) and Type-2 (HSV-2) are viruses containing double-helical DNA viruses (1). These vesicular eruptions occur in both cutaneous and mucous membrane forms, commonly observed in the oral cavity. HSV infections are categorized as primary, resulting from initial infection, and secondary, due to viral reactivation (2). Typically, HSV-1 remains latent in the trigeminal ganglia, and HSV-2 most commonly in the lumbosacral ganglia (3). Primary herpetic gingivostomatitis, caused primarily by HSV-1, though less frequently by HSV-2, is mainly seen in childhood but can occur in adults. Transmission occurs through direct contact or secretions. HSV-2 is a predominant cause of genital herpes and is sexually transmitted (4).

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CONCLUSION

In the realm of dentistry, viral infections play a pivotal role in oral health. This review has delved into various viral agents that impact the oral mucosa, highlighting their diverse etiologies, clinical manifestations, and diagnostic approaches. From the well-known herpes simplex viruses to less common arthropod and rodent-transmitted viruses, the spectrum of viral influences is extensive.

The emergence of COVID-19 has further highlighted the complex interplay between systemic viral infections and oral health. The oral manifestations associated with this pandemic virus underscore the need for vigilant interdisciplinary collaboration between dental and medical fields.

As we navigate this intricate landscape, it's evident that comprehensive patient care requires a keen understanding of viral infections' oral impacts. Continual research and refined diagnostic strategies will be instrumental in enhancing our ability to diagnose, manage, and prevent viral-associated oral issues. In conclusion, this review underscores the intricate relationship between viral infections and oral health, emphasizing the critical role dental professionals play in ensuring holistic patient well-being.

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