Oral Submucous Fibrosis: A Clinical Note

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ABSTRACT

Aim: To emphasize on the clinicopathological aspects including the natural course of Oral Sub-Mucous fibrosis (OSMF) that may help dental surgeons to make an early diagnosis and reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with this condition.

Summary: Oral Sub-Mucous fibrosis (OSMF) is a premalignant condition mainly associated with the practice of chewing betel quid containing areca nut, a habit common among South Asian people. It is characterized by inflammation, increased deposition of submucosal collagen and formation of fibrotic bands in the oral and paraoral tissues, with limitation of mouth opening. With respect to the treatment of submucous fibrosis, several conservative approaches have been tried with little success. All therapies strictly advise abstinence from the habit and palliative treatment. Surgical treatment options are available to cases not responding to palliative treatment but with guarded prognosis, and achieve limited success if habit is still continued.

Keywords: Areca nut, Oral sub-mucous fibrosis (OSMF), Pre-malignant condition, Tobacco.

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