SOFT TISSUE VARIATIONS OF NORMAL

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Normally keratinized tissues

- Gingiva
- Tongue dorsum
- Hard palate
Non-keratinized mucosa

- Everything else
Other definitions

- **Hyperplasia**: increase in number of cells
- **Hypertrophy**: increase in size of cells
- **Hamartoma**: abnormal collection of normally occurring tissue
- **Choristoma**: normal tissue in an abnormal location
Leukoedema

- Accumulation of fluid within epithelial cells of the buccal mucosa
- Etiology unknown (low level trauma?)
- Bilateral
- Tongue may be involved
Leukoedema

- When stretched, appearance is decreased or disappears
- Much more prevalent in African Americans
- No treatment is necessary
- Not a leukoplakia
Linea alba

- Raised white line along occlusal plane of buccal mucosa
- Bilateral
- Represents a frictional hyperkeratosis secondary to low level chronic trauma
- Asymptomatic
- No treatment necessary
Cheek biting

- Factitious habitual lesion
- Shaggy appearance
- Usually along the occlusal line of the buccal and/or labial mucosa
- Asymptomatic, patient usually unaware
- No treatment necessary
Fordyce granules

- Sebaceous glands in oral mucosa
- Buccal mucosa and vermillion border of the upper lip
- Multiple small yellowish maculopapular structures
- Not associated with hair follicles
- No treatment necessary
Ankyloglossia

- Abnormal fibrous attachment between ventral surface of the tongue and the floor of the mouth
- Maxillary labial frenum thickened attachment
- Treatment is surgical repositioning
Gingival graft

- Periodontal surgical procedure
- Autologous
- Graft typically from palate
- Texture/color/thickness of tissue may appear different from surrounding tissue in graft site
Tori and Exostoses

- **Torus**: nonneoplastic growth of nodular dense bone found in the midline of the palate and lingual surfaces of the mandible
- **Exostosis**: Identical lesion in other areas of the alveolar bone
- Variations of normal bony structure
- Overlying soft tissue unaffected
Tori and Exostoses

- Slow growing
- Usually asymptomatic unless overlying soft tissue is traumatized
- Usually require no treatment unless cosmetic concerns or interference with denture construction/placement, normal function
Incisive papilla

- Excess tissue at the area of the incisive foramen
- Between central incisors
- No treatment necessary
Physiologic pigmentation

- Increase in production of melanin granules
- No increase in the number of melanocytes
- Small, solitary lesions are melanotic macules
Physiologic pigmentation

- May require biopsy to rule out neoplasm
- Obtain thorough medical/medication history
- Most cases idiopathic
Varicosities/Varix

- Vascular lesion
- Adulthood, older age
- Focal venous dilations, may become hyperplastic
- Bluish color, may be raised
- Asymptomatic
- No treatment necessary unless cosmetic
Lingual tonsil

- Normal site of tonsillar tissue
- Area of lymphatic tissue/activity
- Asymptomatic bilateral, raised nodules on posterior lateral tongue
- Prominence variable
- No treatment necessary
Circumvallate papilla

- Prominent circumvallate papilla on posterior dorsum of tongue
- Reassure patient it is normal
- No treatment required
Fissured tongue

- Fissured and cracked appearance
- Very mild to deep fissures
- Etiology unknown
- Asymptomatic
- No treatment necessary
Hairy tongue

- “Hairy” appearance of the tongue dorsum due to buildup of excess keratin
- May become stained
- May become secondarily infected with candida
- Generally asymptomatic
- No treatment necessary
- Not hairy leukoplakia
Geographic tongue

- Benign migratory glossitis: Erythematous patches of the tongue with white rims
- Patterns change daily
- Rarely symptomatic
- Etiology unknown
- Stomatitis ereata migrans
- Typically no treatment is necessary
Median rhomboid glossitis

- Erythematous patch of atrophic mucosa
- Middle-posterior dorsum of tongue
- Developmental defect predisposed to chronic candida colonization?
- Usually asymptomatic
- In most cases, no treatment necessary
- Antifungal therapy