

2nd International Conference on

Respiratory and Pulmonary Medicine

October 17-18, 2016 Chicago, USA

Oral tuberculosis: The often forgotten entity

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Tuberculosis (TB) is a major global health problem. According to latest WHO Global Health Tuberculosis Report 2015, TB causes ill health among millions of people each year and ranks alongside HIV as a leading cause of death worldwide. In 2014, there were an estimated 9.6 million new TB cases: 5.4 million among men, 3.2 million among women and 1.0 million among children. Of the 9.6 million new TB cases in 2014, 58% were in the South-East Asia and Western Pacific regions. The African Region had 28% of the world's cases in 2014, India, Indonesia and China had the largest number of cases: 23%, 10% and 10% of the global total, respectively. Oral tuberculosis (Oral TB) has been considered to account for 0.1-5% of all TB infections. Primary tuberculosis is extremely rare, secondary tuberculosis is more frequent and often involves the tongue, followed by palate, lips, buccal mucosa, gingiva and frenum. The lesion usually appears in form of ulcers, patches, indurated soft tissue or occasionally within jaw as tuberculosis osteomyelitis. Oral TB can be a diagnostic challenge to the clinician, because of its varied clinical presentation. Hence, a complete physical, radiographic and sputum examination along with anti-tuberculin tests should be done. Biopsy and molecular techniques can also play a crucial role in successful diagnosis of oral TB. This paper highlights few case presentations discussing clinical features, diagnosis, differential diagnosis and treatment modalities for the often forgotten and rare entity the oral TB.

Biography

Jaspreet Singh Gill has completed his Master's (Periodontology) from Government Dental College and Hospital, Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Punjab, India. He is an Associate Professor in the Department of Periodontics and Oral Implantology from Desh Bhagat Dental College and Hospital, Muktsar, Punjab. He has published papers in reputed journals, participated in various national conferences and has been serving as a reviewer for many journals of repute.

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