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Malignant transformation of erosive oral mucosal lichen planus to oral squamous cell carcinoma

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Introduction: Oral mucosal lichen planus (OMLP) is a chronic inflammatory skin disease, usually benign that affects all areas of the oral mucosa. Its diagnosis is based on the clinical examination and histological analysis. The erosive form presents a risk of malignant transformation from 0.3% to 3%, justifying the strict surveillance of the disease and effective treatment of relapses.

Case Report: A 65 years old woman, without specific and non smoking history, reported to the Oral Surgery Department of the Consultation Center of Dental Treatments of Rabat, presenting oral lesions lasting for four years. The intraoral examination revealed the presence of white lesions in the form of plates sitting on the entire right side edge of the tongue with the presence of gingival ulceration in relation to the right premolar-molar area. A biopsy was performed and concluded an erosive oral lichen planus. A first-line treatment combining local corticosteroids and retinoids has been set up; however, a recurrence occurred 7 months after treatment. Another biopsy was performed and concluded an invasive oral squamous cell carcinoma. The patient was referred to the Maxillofacial Surgery Department for expansion and adequate management.

Discussion: Malignant transformation of the OMLP is rare and remains a subject of controversy despite numerous studies that have been devoted. It occurs most often on the atrophic and erosive forms. Several assumptions have been suggested to explain this malignant transformation but the chronic inflammation seems to be the key factor. Tobacco and alcohol are well known carcinogenic factors, may contribute to the malignant transformation of the OMLP but it turns out that this disease affects mostly women who have no-smoking ethyl intoxication; so there must be other factors. The *Candida infection* and the expression of certain tumor suppressor genes may lead to the malignant transformation of OMLP.

Biography

Narjiss Akerzoul has received her Doctorate of Dental Surgery (DDS) from Mohammed V University of Rabat, Morocco in the year 2011. She has then worked as a General Practitioner Dentist in Oral Health Center of Guelmim City, Morocco. She has also completed her Diploma in Biostatistics and Research Methodology during 2014-2015. She has authored and co-authored several international publications in the field of oral surgery and oral oncology. She has been an Editorial Member in Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery of the *International Journal of Oral Health and Medical Research (IJOHMR)*, Reviewer in Omics Group and Biomedical Journals. Her research includes Oral Surgery, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, Oral Medicine, Oral Oncology, Head & Neck Oncology, Oral Implantology and Oral Infectious Diseases.

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