

GEOGRAPHIC TONGUE - A CASE REPORT

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Abstract

Benign migratory glossitis is commonly known as geographic tongue. Its dominated characteristic is a constantly changing pattern of serpiginous white lines surrounding areas of smooth, depapillated mucosa. In this case a young boy is found suddenly with benign migratory glossitis. The changing pattern is derived from history obtained from patient. This case is presented in the view of its unusual pattern and rarity.

Key Words

Key Messages

INTRODUCTION

Geographic tongue is a condition of developmental disturbances. Benign migratory glossitis is known as geographic tongue. It is a psoriasiform mucositis of the dorsum surface of the tongue. It is also known as wandering rash, glossitis areata exfoliativa, glossitis migrans. A condition characterised by a chronic, circumscribed, more or less circinate desquamation of the superficial epithelium of the dorsum of the tongue. Its' dominant feature is constantly changing pattern of the serpiginous white lines surrounding areas of smooth, depapillated mucosa. With left some rashes and depapillated areas are left- appeared as globe with the white lines- commonly known as geographic tongue. Psychological stress is only prominent cause, and proper etiology is unknown. Biopsy is an optional choice as the condition is symptom less⁶.

REVIEW OF THE ARTICLE

Hereditary component in the etiology of benign migratory glossitis was published in American journal of human genetics in 1972 by Robert and other three: 24, page 124- 1333. Symptomatic benign migratory glossitis report of two cases and literary review was published in Pediatric dentistry in November/ December issue in 1992, volume 14, number 6 and it was found that benign migratory glossitis usually found in general clinical examination⁴.

CASE REPORT

A 10 years aged boy is identified with benign migratory glossitis in a dental camp. The school dental camp was conducted at Calcutta deaf and dumb school. His mother complaints the tongue is not clear by brushing and there is

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a constant white colour coating- changes sometimes. Intraoral examination found no other abnormalities. No other prominent patches found in his body, including arm and leg. There is no symptom of etching or burning sensation or hyper salivation found in this case. Head is oligocephalic and he has profound deafness (>90%). He is able to take all types of food, no complaint of irritation. Tongue is depapillated and red smooth areas are found in dorsum surface. By palpation smooth non tender dorsum surface is found⁵.

DISCUSSION

Benign migratory glossitis is an inflammatory condition of tongue generally affected dorsum surface. It is found 2-3% population generally. There is no relation of carcinomatous condition with it. Due to its' appearance like 'map' it is commonly known as geographic tongue. Genetic prevalence may present^{1,2}.

This boy present with benign migratory glossitis in a regular check- up camp. From his mother it is known as the erythematous patches changed with time. No other member of his family is affected. It is a single lesson which is an uncommon presentation.

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