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Letter

Oral Fasciitis

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The recent report in *Oral Oncology* of nodular fasciitis [1] raises the profile of this unusual pathology which has been repeatedly misdiagnosed as a malignant neoplasm with disastrous consequences for the patients involved [2-4]. However, fasciitis in the head and neck region is not as rare as the authors suggest. Differences in nomenclature exist and nodular fasciitis, proliferative fasciitis, periosteal fasciitis, cranial fasciitis, intravascular fasciitis and proliferative myositis are believed to represent the same, reactive, pseudo-sarcomatous pathological process [5-10]. In a literature review of fasciitis 17% of cases (254 cases) were located to the head and neck [11]. Many other examples of fasciitis in the head and

neck have been reported either as single cases or as series [12, 13]. Oral fasciitis is infrequently compared to other head and neck sites, but there are several reports in the literature, some of which are listed in Table 1 [14-32]. Rarely fasciitis can induce hard tissue destruction with alveolar bone or tooth resorption in the mouth [18, 24-26]. Perioral cases, for example involving either the lower border of the mandible or parotid gland have been reported in many instances [13, 20, 27, 33-39]. Fasciitis can involve any extracranial head and neck soft tissue, either superficial or deep, and all head and neck clinicians and pathologists should be aware of this important diagnosis if appropriate management is to be implemented.

Table 1. The anatomical location, patient age in years and patient sex for some cases of oral fasciitis reported in the literature

Reference	Location	Age (years)	Sex
Smith, 1967 [14]	Buccal	42	M
Lumerman <i>et al.</i> , 1972 [15]	Buccal	31	F
Solomon <i>et al.</i> , 1974 [16]	Buccal	47	M
Larsson and Svartz, 1976 [17]	Buccal	25	F
Sato <i>et al.</i> , 1981 [18]	Mucobuccal fold, 24-27 region	31	M
Freedman and Lumerman, 1986 [19]	Mucobuccal fold, 46 region	19	M
Werning, 1979 [20]	Buccal	53	M
	Buccal	NS	NS
	Buccal	NS	NS
	Buccal	NS	NS
	Tongue	NS	NS
Miller <i>et al.</i> , 1975 [21]	Mental foramen region	NS	NS
	Left mental foramen region	4	M
Robertson <i>et al.</i> , 1986 [22]	Anterior mandible	9	M
Davies <i>et al.</i> , 1989 [23]	Left parasymphysis	15	M
Rakower, 1971 [24]	Alveolus 13	48	M
Mostofi <i>et al.</i> , 1987 [25]	Alveolus, 37 region	46	M
Rahn and Schneider, 1988 [26]	Alveolus, 42-44 region	27	M
Takagi <i>et al.</i> , 1978 [27]	Palate	46	F
	Tongue	34	M
Kawana <i>et al.</i> , 1986 [28]	Upper lip	42	M
Kahn <i>et al.</i> , 1987 [29]	Lower lip	20	F
Bodner and Dayan, 1991 [30]	Upper lip	20	M

M = male; F = female; NS = not stated.

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