

## PICTORIAL

## HECK'S DISEASE IN ELDERLY MALE

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Heck's disease is also known as focal epithelial hyperplasia (FEH). It was named by Dr Archard Heck et al in the year 1965. It is a rare form of viral infection occurring in oral mucosa. It mostly affects children's who belongs to the Eskimos, Navajo and other Native American tribes but rarely seen in Asians.<sup>1,2</sup> The prime etiological factor is human papilloma virus (HPV) type 13 or 32. It is mostly seen in adolescent age group. Among these 2 types the subtype 32 of HPV tends to cause the disease more in the older individuals. Intraorally both keratinized and non-keratinized surfaces have been involved by HPV. It has equal occurrence rate in both males and females.<sup>2</sup> The clinical manifestation of these lesion is numerous small whitish or normal in colour papules or nodules mostly in lower labial mucosa followed by buccal mucosa and tongue and less commonly noted on the upper labial mucosa, gingiva and palate region.<sup>3</sup>

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## CASE

A 60 years old male came in the department of oral medicine with complain of lump inside left cheek region since last 9 months with no history of pain. He said it often gets traumatized while chewing food. There is no relevant past medical history except for hypertension for which he is taking antihypertensive drugs since last 5 years. Patient had no deleterious habits. On clinical intraoral examination there was single well defined pale whitish soft, sessile papule seen over left buccal mucosa (Figure-1). Lesion was discrete and well demarcated. The lesions were not ulcerated. Multiple small papules coalesce to form a large papule measuring around 1cm in diameter. Provisional diagnosis was focal epithelial hyperplasia.

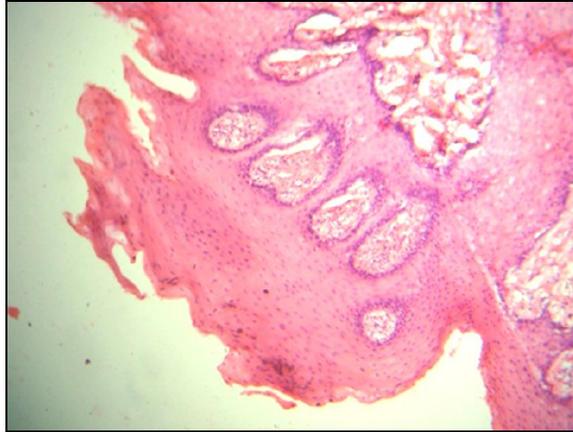
An excisional biopsy was performed under local anaesthesia. Biopsy tissue was sent for cytological examination and polymerase chain reaction analysis to confirm the exact aetiology of the lesion. Histopathological examination under hemotoxin and eosin staining showed hyperplasia with acanthosis and elongated rete ridges. Spinous layer with parakeratosis, anisokaryosis and koilocytosis. (Figure-2) There was

marked number of nuclear changes with mitosoid bodies which is one of the characteristics of HPV. Further the wax block that was given for PCR analysis showed human papillomavirus subtype 32 DNA. Final diagnosis confirmed as Heck's disease. Follow up was done after 3 months that showed no recurrence with complete healing of the site.

In this case it affected at unusual age of 60 year, which is very uncommon finding at this particular age. Literature review of various case reports showed the maximum age of 65-year-old male was reported with this lesion. The majority of FEH is seen in the Americans and Caucasians is experienced by young patients and it's very rare among Indian subcontinent. Reduced immune system leaves the patient vulnerable to opportunistic infections, including HPV infections; this can be one of the reasons why it is seen in this elderly individual who had poor oral hygiene. Functional and aesthetic concern among these cases can be managed by simple excision of the lesion. Other treatment modalities which can be opted are CO2 laser, electrocoagulation and chemical agents like retinoic acid and immunostimulant drugs.



**Figure-1:** Displaying whitish colour, papulo nodules, and sessile growth located on the left buccal mucosa.



**Figure-2: Hemotoxin and eosion staining photomicrograph showing characteristic features of FEH with acanthosis and with long rete ridges.**

## REFERENCES

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