



DIAGNOSTIC DILEMMAS IN THE MOST COMMON ORAL LESIONS AND DISEASES



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Aim: to present the most common oral pigmented changes and lesions, their clinical characteristics and differential diagnostic possibilities, in order to avoid mistakes and ensure an accurate diagnosis.



Methods: research was done exploring specialized databases PubMed, MEDLINE, EBSCO, Science Direct, Scopus for the period 2010-2023, by use of MeSH terms: pigmented oral lesions, diffuse and bilateral pigmented lesions, focal pigmented lesions, differential diagnosis.



Results: The most common oral manifestations were categorized in groups as follows: **diffuse and bilateral** (physiologic, Peuth-Jeghers Sy, Addison disease, drug-induced, postinflammatory, smoker's pigmentations) and **focal** (red blue-purple: hemangioma, varix; blue-grey: amalgam tattoo, blue nevus; and brown: melanotic macula, pigmented nevus, melanoachantoma, melanoma).



Conclusions: in order to minimize wrong diagnoses and achieve more accurate ones, it is necessary to consider the main complaints of patients, medical and dental history, clinical manifestation, not paraclinical examinations. Laboratory tests, and in many cases histopathological examination, which is known as the gold standard in the diagnosis of oral pathology, are used to confirm the clinical diagnosis.