DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS IN THE COMMON ULCERATED ORAL LESIONS AND DISEASES

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Background: The oral cavity is a complex region in the head and neck area where a wide range of changes, conditions and lesions of the oral mucosa are encountered that can cause diagnostic dilemmas for dentists. A diverse range of cysts, benign a nd malignant tumors of the salivary glands, precancers, as well as odontogenic and non-odontogenic neoplasms, can often be overlooked or misdiagnosed.

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

Results. The most common ulcerated oral manifestations were categorized in groups as follows: benign (traumatic ulcers, RAS, ulcers associated with viral and bacterial i nfections, vesicobullous lesions); and malignant (squamous, verrucous, melanoma, salivary gland adenocarcinoma)

Methods: research was done exploring specialized databases PubMed, MEDLINE, EBS Science Direct, Scopus for the period 2010-2023, by use of MeSH terms: oral tumor, oral neoplasms, differential diagnosis.

Conclusions: The diagnosis and treatment of lesions of the oral cavity are an integral part of oral health care, hence the early detection and treatment of these lesions will greatly improve the quality of life of patients and the survival rate in cases of oral cancers. 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.

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