

Manifestations of cancer in the oral cavity

Manifestations of oral cancer are relatively **frequent** and **diverse**. The most common include:

- Hemorrhage
- Ulceration
- Infiltration
- Infection
- Lymphadenopathy

Hemorrhagia

- Hemorrhages are common in patients with diseases related to thrombocytopenia, such as acute leukemia, aplastic anemia, or idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura.
- Very often only petechiae are symptomatic, sometimes bleeding occurs while brushing teeth.
- Prolonged profuse bleeding after tooth extraction may be the only sign of myeloproliferative disease.

Ulceration

- Ulcerations are severe in patients with granulocytopenia.
- The site of manifestation is: gums, tongue, palate, cheek mucosa.
- They are very painful.

Most infections in patients with granulocytopenia are caused by *E. coli*, *Klebsiella* and *Pseudomonas*.^[1]

Infiltration

- So-called **diffuse gingival hypertrophy** occurs in patients with leukemia. The degree of this hypertrophy corresponds with the number of abnormal cells in the peripheral blood.
- As a result, the teeth are completely covered by the gingiva, which bleeds and becomes easily infected.
- Microscopy:
 - epithelium is absent or hypertrophic
 - the connective tissue is infiltrated with leukemic cells
- Gingival tissue may necrotize due to vascular thrombosis.
- Loosening of the teeth occurs due to necrosis of the dental periosteum.

Infection

- In patients with granulocytopenia, aplastic anemia, acute leukemia, and other myeloproliferative diseases that are associated with granulocytopenia.

Lymphadenopathy

- In patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia, where the submandibular and cervical lymph nodes are often leukemically infiltrated.

*Patients with acute lymphocytic leukemia have **tonsillar hypertrophy**. There may also be **airway** and **Eustachian tube** obstruction due to lymphoid tissue involvement of the **Waldayer lymphatic circuit**. The **Mikulicz syndrome** (i.e., xerostomia and xerophthalmia) may also occur with leukemic infiltration of the lacrimal and salivary glands.*

References

Related articles

References

1. JANOUŠEK, Václav. *Pathological physiology for dentists : Textbook for medical faculties*. 1. edition. Prague : Avicenum, zdravotnické nakladatelství, n. p, 1990. 284 pp. pp. 166. ISBN 80-201-0053-9.

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