

What is your Diagnosis ?

Thirty year old male patient complained of painful ulcerations of lips and mouth since 6 months. This was associated with burning sensation in the mouth and intolerance to spicy foods. He is a heavy smoker since 10 years.

Examination revealed several areas of superficial ulcerations on lips and tongue. Base of ulcers were not inflamed or indurated. There was whitish to bluish patches found on the lips and cheek mucosa. No skin lesions were seen.



- Differential diagnosis :**
1. Lichen planus (oral)
 2. Leukoplakia
 3. Pemphigus vulgaris
 4. Aphthous ulcers

Final diagnosis : Oral lichen planus

The ulcerations were confined to the oral mucosa for 6 months. This is unusual in pemphigus vulgaris. The absence of inflammation in the surrounding mucosa makes possibility of aphthous ulcerations unlikely. Leukoplakia lesions are more often indurated than soft, as was seen in this patient. Lichen planus is well known to occur exclusively on the mucosa. Absence of lichen planus lesions on the skin does not rule out this diagnosis in any patient. Further the presence of superficial ulcerations along with those of bluish and white patches favoured a diagnosis of oral lichen planus. Histology confirmed this clinical diagnosis.