

## WHAT IS YOUR DIAGNOSIS ?

Fifty-five year old male patient complained of whitish patches on the inner aspect of both cheeks for 2 years. Patient was addicted to smoking for 20 years. He had an exposure to STD 10 years earlier, but had no post-exposure problems.

Examination revealed white firm plaques of 4 cm × 3 cm size on inner aspect of both cheeks. There was no ulceration and rest of the mucosa was normal. There were no lesions on the skin or genitalia.



**Fig.**

- Differential diagnosis :**
1. Oral lichen planus
  2. Leukoplakia
  3. Late syphilis
  4. Submucous fibrosis

**Final diagnosis :** Leukoplakia

White lesions in the oral mucosa bring to mind a wide range of diagnostic possibilities.

Submucous fibrosis is characterised by restriction in opening the mouth and protrusion of the tongue. In the absence of this finding, diagnosis of submucous fibrosis was ruled out.

Leukoplakic patches of late syphilis usually occur on the tongue. Since the site of involvement is atypical, late syphilis was not considered.

Oral lichen planus usually manifests as either interlacing white striae or erosive ulcers. Leukoplakic type of oral lichen planus is rare.

On the basis of the above factors and the fact that the patient was a chronic smoker for 20 years, leukoplakia is the most likely clinical diagnosis.

Biopsy from the white patch on the cheek showed oral mucosa with hyperkeratosis, parakeratosis and acanthosis. The epidermal cells showed disorderly arrangement and atypicality. Few mitotic figures were seen. These histological features confirmed the clinical diagnosis.

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**TRUE**

Epidermal cells in amniotic fluid can be used in foetal blood typing. They possess A, B, and H blood group antigens on their surface as early as the 2nd trimester. Recovery of such cells from amniotic fluid provides a method to determine the blood group type of the fetus, regardless of secretory status, for type-specific transfusion in the fetus or neonate and to provide evidence for questions of paternity.

Reference : Holbrook KA: Human epidermal embryogenesis, *Int J Dermatol*, 1979; 18: 329-356.