

## Linezolid-induced lingua villosa nigra



**Figure 1:** Blackish discoloration with prominent filiform papillae over the dorsum of the tongue

A 42-year-old lady underwent open reduction and internal fixation for a fracture of the right humerus. She was prescribed oral linezolid 600 mg twice daily and noticed asymptomatic, black discoloration of the tongue on day 4 [Figure 1]. The black hairy tongue or lingua villosa nigra is reported as a rare self-limiting adverse effect of linezolid and is seen in 0.2% of the patients receiving linezolid. The exact mechanism is unclear but could be due to the elongation of the filiform papillae and the overgrowth of chromogenic bacteria and yeast on the dorsal surface of the tongue. Poor oral hygiene is also a risk factor and may have contributed to its development in our case. No specific treatment is required and it resolves spontaneously, as was noted in our case.

### Declaration of patient consent

The authors certify that they have obtained all appropriate patient consent.

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Nil.

### Conflict of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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