

A typical oral ulcer in a patient with lymphoma and treated with radiation therapy

Clinical image

A 78-year-old patient came to our observation for a tongue lesion. The anamnesis reported previous lymphoma, arterial hypertension, respiratory disorders but in diagnostic assessment phase. She was submitted to radiation therapy. The lesion was a lingual ulcer, irregularly shaped, with thickened and slightly painful margins, with more than 2 cm of maximum diameter. The patient reported to us that it had appeared about 4-5 days before and that it had increased significantly in size in those days. At an objective examination, the tongue appeared soft and there was no apparent trauma. The patient told us she had suffered from aphthosis in the past. A therapy based on Aloe Vera gel and a gel based on hyaluronic acid has been prescribed. After one week the patient showed a clear regression of the lesion and after 2 weeks she completely healed. A diagnosis of Afta Major was made. Given the medical history of the patient, the site and the irregularity of the margins, the differential diagnosis was made with oral carcinoma, oral lymphoma manifestation, traumatic chemical-mechanical ulcer (Figure 1). This case shows that the medical history and physical examination are very important before making a biopsy sample in this type of injuries.^{1,2}



Figure 1 A typical oral ulcer in a patient with lymphoma.

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