

The Role of the Dental Hygienist

DRUG INDUCED GINGIVAL HYPERPLASIA

Could your medication be affecting your oral health?

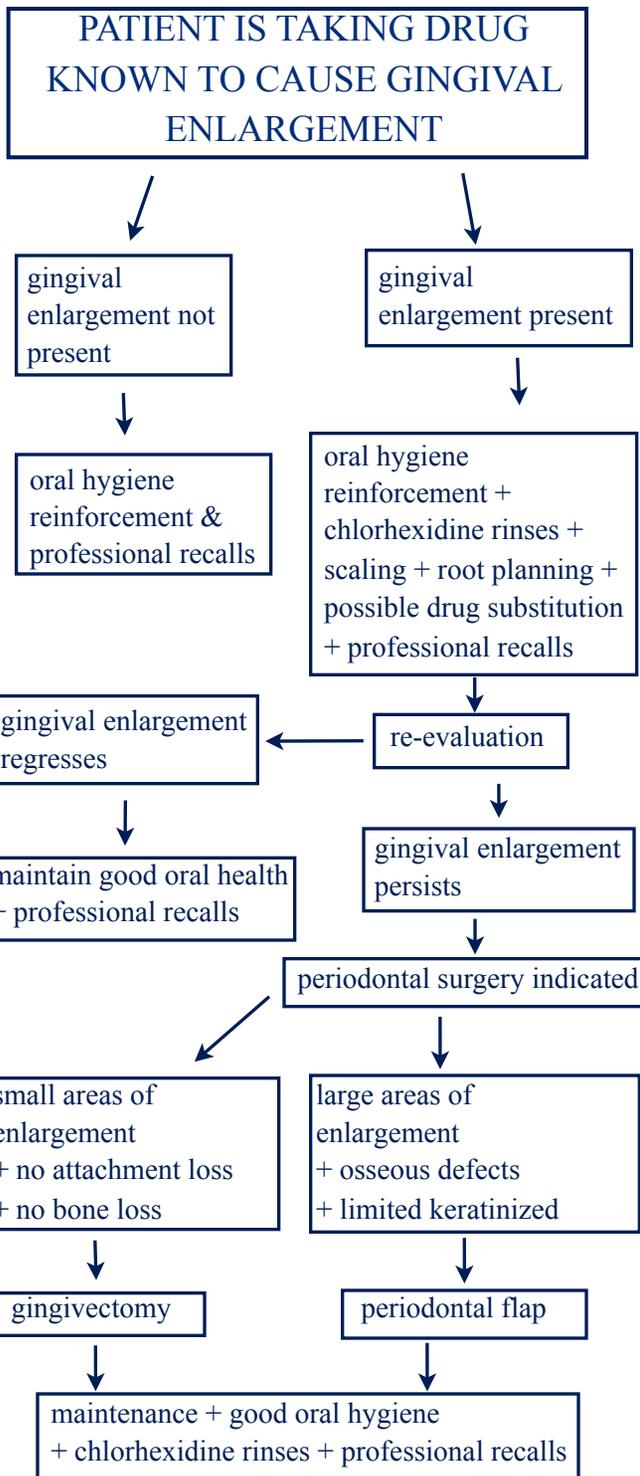
- Reduce the recurrence and progression of gingival hyperplasia
- Emphasize the importance of frequent periodontal maintenance (every 1 to 3 months)
- Reinforce positive oral health habits
- Individualized oral hygiene instructions which include brushing, flossing and using gingival stimulators and oral irrigation devices



WORK & PHOTO REFERENCES

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What is drug induced gingival hyperplasia?

Drug induced gingival hyperplasia is a side effect of medications that cause the gums of the mouth to become **enlarged, inflamed** and usually cause **discomfort**



What are the symptoms of gingival hyperplasia?

- Begin 1-3 months after initiation of treatment
- Gradually becomes painful
- Papillary lesions
- Redness
- Inflammation
- Most commonly found in the upper and lower anterior portion of the mouth
- Compromised oral hygiene care makes plaque control difficult, often resulting in secondary inflammation

What medications can cause gingival hyperplasia?

- **Immunosuppressants**
Used to inhibit the immune system or to treat autoimmune disorders
- **Calcium Channel Blockers**
Used to control high blood pressure, chest pain, and Raynaud's disease
- **Anticonvulsants**
Used to prevent epileptic convulsions

Category	Generic Drug
Anticonvulsants	Phenytoin
	Valproic acid
	Carbamazepine
	Vigabatrin
Calcium channel blockers	Amlodipine
	Diltiazem
	Felodipine
	Isradipine
	Nicardipine
	Nifedipine
	Nisoldipine
	Verapamil
Immunosuppressants	Cyclosporine A
	Tacrolimus
	Mycophenolate mophetil
	Sirolimus

How can we treat gingival hyperplasia?

Nonsurgical Approach

- Reduce inflammatory component
- Frequent, meticulous removal of plaque
- Topical anti-fungal medications
- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents

Surgical Approach

- Gingivectomy: The surgical removal of gum tissue
- Periodontal Flap Surgery: Gum tissue is folded back to allow access to the root of the tooth and bone
- Electrosurgery: Application of a high-frequency alternating electrical current to cut or coagulate the tissue
- Laser excision: A laser beam is used to vaporize the soft tissue

