

DRUG INDUCED GINGIVAL HYPERPLASIA

Could your medication be affecting your oral health?

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What are the Symptoms of Drug Induced Gingival Hyperplasia?

- Begins **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



The Role of the Dental Hygienist

- **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
- Modified instrumentation when scaling affected areas
- Photographic record to capture progression of overgrowth can be used to better oral hygiene planning and instruction



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 causes **discomfort**



Induced By Medications Such As:

- **Immunosuppressants**
Used to inhibit the immune system and 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

Drugs Known to Cause Gingival Hyperplasia

Category	Generic Drug
Anticonvulsants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phenytoin• Valproic Acid• Carbamazepine
Immunosuppressants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amlodipine• Diltiazem• Nifedipine• Verapamil
Calcium Channel Blockers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cyclosporine A• Tacrolimus• Sirolimus

How Can Drug Induced Gingival Hyperplasia be Treated?

Nonsurgical Approach

- Reduce inflammatory component
- Frequent, meticulous removal of plaque
- Topical antifungal 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

