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Hair in the mouth

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A 48-year-old man sought help for hair “growing” in the oral cavity. According to the patient, he noted black dots on the left side of the mouth, which subsequently grew into hairs.

He was a chronic smoker and had developed a chronic, non-healing ulcer on the left buccal mucosa, which later progressed to a tumor like growth. Biopsy revealed a poorly differentiated squamous cell carcinoma. Six weeks before the onset of his current complaints, he had undergone radical excision of the buccal mucosa, hemi-mandibulectomy, and cervical lymph node dissection followed by plastic surgery reconstruction of the region with a flap derived from the left side of chest. The patient said that he had hair on the area of chest which was shaved off before raising the flap.

Examination revealed dark, coarse, and terminal hair on the left buccal mucosa, arising from an area which differed in texture from the surrounding mucosa [Figure 1]. The hair could not be removed manually, thus ruling out the possibility of ingested hair. Dermoscopy and microscopic examination of the hair confirmed the clinical findings. Flap reconstruction using hair bearing skin is known to cause hair growth on the tongue and buccal mucosa. We are planning diode laser epilation for



Figure 1: Dark, coarse, and terminal hair on the left buccal mucosa.

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this patient. When performing flap reconstruction, it would be advisable to select areas free of hair.

Ethical approval

The Institutional Review Board approval is not required.

Declaration of patient consent

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

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Conflicts of interest

Dr Pradeep S Nair is on the editorial Board of the journal.

Use of artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted technology for manuscript preparation

The authors confirm that there was no use of artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted technology for assisting in the writing or editing of the manuscript and no images were manipulated using AI.

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