


Lichenoid proliferative leukoplakia, lichenoid lesions with evolution to proliferative leukoplakia or a continuum of the same precancerous condition? A revised hypothesis

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Resumen

Background: Multiple white plaques of the oral mucosa are usually associated with potentially malignant disorders such as oral lichen planus, oral lichenoid lesions and proliferative verrucous leukoplakia. Previous studies in the current literature describe a potential clinical overlap in these entities. The aim of this study is to review clinicopathological and evolutive features of these Oral Potentially Malignant Disorders highlighting the dynamic changes of diagnoses. **Discussion:** It was previously hypothesized that a subset of patients with oral lichen planus or oral lichenoid diagnosis, could develop multiple white plaques during the natural history of the disease, fulfilling diagnostic criteria for proliferative verrucous leukoplakia.

Consequently, these entities could, under certain conditions, obey a continuum of the same precancerous condition in the context of the field cancerization theory, increasing the risk of malignant transformation. Nevertheless, there is limited scientific evidence concerning this issue. Conclusion: Further studies are needed to understand the biological and evolutive features of the link between these oral potentially malignant disorders. Regardless of its diagnosis, these patients with multifocal white lesions must be carefully monitored to detect early malignant transformation.

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