

Hemangioma of tongue

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Hemangioma is a benign proliferation of blood vessels. Oral hemangioma is a common entity and represents 14% of all hemangiomas (1). It was first reported in 1841 as bluish excrescence and erectile tissue (2). It usually presents at birth but can occur rarely in adults due to frequent trauma to the blood vessels of mucosa. The lip mucosa (63% of cases) is the most frequent site followed by the buccal mucosa (14% of cases), and the lateral borders of the tongue (14% of cases), but it may occur at any oral or pharyngeal location.

International Society for the Study of Vascular Anomalies (ISSVA) has recently provided guidelines to differentiate these two conditions, according to the novel classification first published by Mulliken *et al.*, in 1982 (3,4). They are broadly classified into two groups: hemangioma and vascular malformation.

A 50-year-old female presented with a swelling in the ventral surface of anterior one third tongue. She noticed it 6 months back which was gradually increasing. She is neither a tobacco chewer nor using any denture. It was not associated with features of pain, fever, difficulty in the speech and swallowing. The past medical, dental and family histories were not significant and the vitals were within normal limit.

Intra-oral examination revealed a solitary elliptical swelling measuring about 1.5 cm × 2 cm in size. The surface appeared to be smooth and granular with well-defined borders. The swelling was blackish in colour. Adjacent area was normal (*Figure 1*). On palpation the swelling was soft in consistency, non-mobile, non-tender, afebrile with no palpable thrills and did not blanch on compression.

Patient was taken for surgery under general anaesthesia. The feeding vessel was identified and ligated. The mass was enucleated along with capsule and the defect was closed primarily (*Figure 2*).

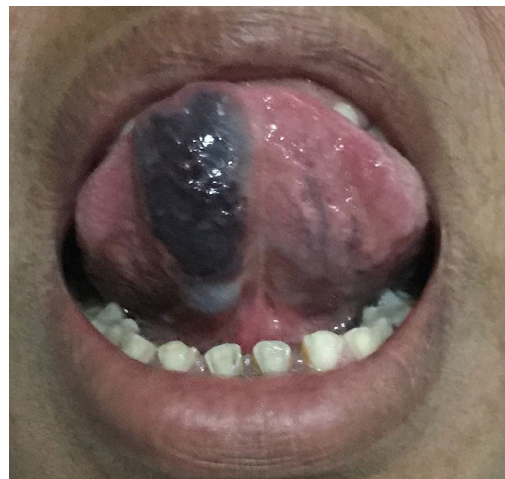


Figure 1 Photograph showing blackish lesion on the ventral surface of tongue.



Figure 2 Intraoperative image after the removal of lesion.

On histopathological examination, the mass revealed the features of cavernous hemangioma comprising multiple dilated vascular channels.

Though it is a benign tumor sometimes it can be confused with vascular malignancy or melanoma due to painless mass and increasing in size. Proper clinical evaluation and management can benefit the patient.

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Footnote

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