

Commentary

Overview of gum disease

Soodabeh Kimyai *

Department of Operative Dentistry, Tabriz University, Tabriz, Iran.

Accepted 17 September 2021

COMMENTARY

The mucosal tissue that covers the mandible and maxilla inside the mouth is called gingiva. Gum illness and health can have an impact on overall health. The soft tissue lining of the mouth includes the gums. They form a protective barrier around the teeth. Unlike the soft tissue linings of the lips and cheeks, the majority of the gums are strongly connected to the underlying bone, which helps to reduce food friction. When it's healthy, it acts as a protective barrier against periodontal insults to deeper tissue. In light-skinned persons, healthy gums are normally coral pink; however they can be naturally darker due to melanin pigmentation. Changes in colour, particularly greater redness, along with swelling and an increased susceptibility to bleed, indicate inflammation caused by bacterial plaque formation. In both health and sickness, the clinical appearance of the tissue reflects the underlying histology. When gum tissue is unhealthy, it can act as a portal for periodontal disease to spread further into the periodontium, resulting in a poor prognosis for long-term tooth retention. The type of periodontal therapy and homecare recommendations given to patients by dental practitioners, as well as restorative care, are all determined by the tissue's clinical status.

Anatomically, the gums are separated into three areas: marginal, attached, and interdental.

Marginal gums: The marginal gum is the edge of the gums that forms a collar around the teeth. A shallow linear depression, known as the free gingival groove, separates it from the surrounding, attached gums in around half of people. This little depression on the gum's outer surface corresponds

to the junctional epithelium's apical border, not the depth of the gingival sulcus. The depth of this outer groove varies depending on the area of the mouth cavity. On the mandibular anteriors and premolars, the groove is pronounced.

Attached gum: The connected gums and the marginal gum are one and the same. It's robust, resilient, and firmly attached to the periosteum of the alveolar bone. The mucogingival junction separates the connected gum's facial aspect from the alveolar mucosa, which is generally flexible and moveable. Surface stippling may be evident with attached gum. The tissue is dull, hard, and inflexible when dry, with different degrees of stippling.

Interdental gum: Between the teeth is the interdental gum. They live in the gingival embrasure, which is the interproximal space beneath the point of contact between the teeth. The shape of the interdental papilla can be pyramidal or "col." Attached gums are keratin-covered and resistant to chewing forces. The depth and width of the col vary based on the extent of the interacting tooth surfaces. The epithelium that covers the col is similar to the surrounding teeth's marginal gum, except that it is nonkeratinized.

Interdental Areas: It is the portion of the gum that runs between two teeth up to the point of contact. There are two types of interdental papilla's one on the face side and one on the lingual side. The interdental papilla features a concave summit and concave edges. The middle section is attached, but the tip and borders are unattached. The concavity of the interdental papilla is lost during inflammation.

*Corresponding author. Kimyai Soodabeh, E-mail: kimyais@tbzmed.ac.ir