

KERATOSIS (LEUKOPLAKIA) (provisional diagnosis)

Please note this is our provisional diagnosis which must be confirmed by tests. If you have any questions, particularly about the treatment or potential side-effects, please ask Professor.

- This is an uncommon condition
- Sometimes it is caused by friction or tobacco, occasionally some toothpastes
- It is not inherited
- It is not known to be infectious
- In a *very small* number, and after years, it may lead to a tumour. You should get yourself checked regularly
- Blood tests and biopsy may be required
- There is no universally agreed management and this can be by simple observation, drugs, or surgery. You should avoid alcohol or tobacco in future
- Useful websites <http://www.cochrane.org/cochrane/revabstr/ab001829.htm>
<http://www.emedicine.com/ent/topic731.htm>

A patient has the right under common law to give or withhold consent to medical examination of treatment. This is one of the basic principles of health care. Patients are entitled to receive sufficient information in a way they can understand about the proposed treatments, the possible alternatives and any substantial risk or risks which may be special in kind or magnitude or special to the patient, so that they can make a balanced judgement. (UK Health Dept. 19.2.99. HSC 1999/031)

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