

LICHEN PLANUS (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 a common condition
- The cause is unknown
- Children do not usually inherit it from parents
- It is not thought to be infectious
- Lichen planus is sometimes related to diabetes, drugs, dental fillings, or other conditions
- Some patients have the condition on the skin, hair, nails or genitals
- Blood tests and biopsy may be required
- The condition tends to persist in the mouth
- Lichen planus can be controlled but rarely cured, usually with corticosteroids or tacrolimus
- Most lichen planus is benign
- *Some forms* of lichen planus *may rarely*, after years, lead to a tumour; in this case, have yourself checked regularly if the specialist advises
- Useful websites <http://www.tambcd.edu/lichen/>
<http://www.aad.org/pamphlets/lichen.html>

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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