

PIGMENTED MOUTH LESIONS

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.

- These are common
- Pigmented lesions are not known to be infectious
- Most mouth pigmentation is inherited
- Most affect only the mouth but occasionally they occur elsewhere or are associated with other conditions
- Otherwise, the cause is usually embedded amalgam, drugs or social habits
- X-rays, blood tests, biopsy, and other investigations may be required
- Pigmented lesions are often removed by surgery
- There are usually no long-term consequences
- Useful website <http://archfami.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/9/3/219>

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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