

Images in Clinical Hematology

Gingival swelling associated with hypoplasminogenemia



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A middle-aged woman presented for evaluation of gingival swelling. She was previously diagnosed with hypoplasminogenemia and current plasminogen level was 29% (reference value: 78–130%). Intraoral examination revealed swelling of the right maxillary gingiva (Figure 1). Biopsy with routine histopathologic analysis revealed fibrinoid deposits and a mixed inflammatory infiltrate within the lamina propria, consistent with hypoplasminogenemia (Figure 2).

Hypoplasminogenemia (type 1 plasminogen deficiency) is commonly associated with ligneous conjunctivitis and ligneous gingivitis.^{1–3} An oral mucosal biopsy can aid in the diagnosis of this rare condition as histopathologic evidence of fibrin deposition is highly suggestive of hypoplasminogenemia.^{2,3}



Figure 1 – Swelling of the right anterior maxillary gingiva.

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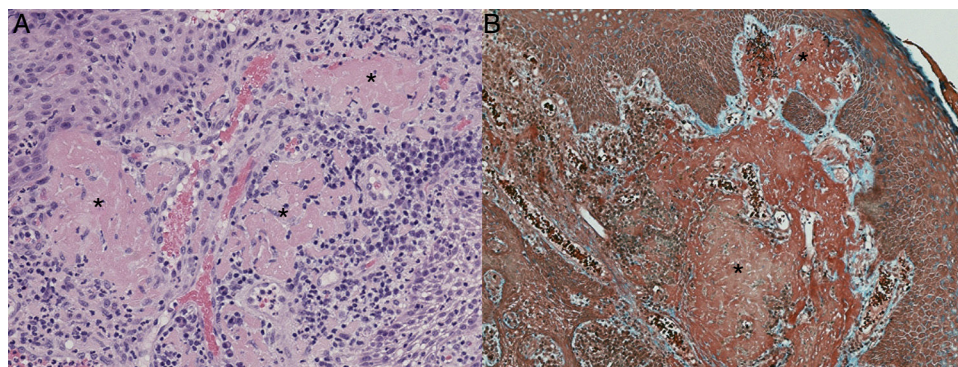


Figure 2 – Amorphous fibrinoid deposits (*) in the gingival lamina propria. (A) Hematoxylin-eosin (magnification $\times 100$), (B) trichrome (magnification $\times 40$).

Conflicts of interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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