



Growth on tongue

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Case history

This 43 year old heavy smoker and alcoholic presented with an asymptomatic growth on the lateral aspect of the tongue, increasing in size over the past 6 months.



Question 1

What is the most likely diagnosis?

Question 2

What is the differential diagnosis?

Question 3

What investigation and treatment is recommended?

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Answer 1

Halo naevus (Sutton's naevus – leukoderma centrifugum acquisitum).

Answer 2

- the development of halo around pre-existing naevus, and
- the disappearance of naevus.

Answer 3

None. Observe and evaluate the naevus for clinical criteria for malignancy (variation of pigment and irregular borders) as a halo may occasionally develop around a primary malignant melanoma.

Send your answers to arrive by 20 April. A prize of 12 months subscription to 'eTG complete' will be donated by Therapeutic Guidelines Ltd to the first correct entry drawn. The winner will be notified by mail and the answer published in the May 2004 issue.



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