Oral manifestations of systemic diseases – the mouth as the window into the body

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SPEAKER

Dr. Murdoch-Kinch is the Dr. Walter H. Swartz Professor of Integrated Special Care Dentistry at the University of Michigan. She completed her PhD and residency training at Indiana University and is a diplomate of the ABOM and ABOMR. She has conducted multidisciplinary clinical research in radiation oncology for head and neck, cancer and published on topics ranging from oral and maxillofacial radiology, oral oncology, and oral-systemic health, to interprofessional health education.

SESSION DESCRIPTION

Oral manifestations can often be the first sign or symptom of systemic diseases. A dentist may be the first healthcare provider to be consulted about the problem. For example, because of the high physiological turnover rate of oral epithelium and the unique microbiological environment within the oral cavity, oral manifestations are common in inflammatory bowel diseases, autoimmune disorders, skin diseases, and cancer. Dentists are uniquely qualified to recognize these oral lesions.

SESSION OBJECTIVES

At the end of this session, participants will know more about:

• conducting an appropriate history and physical examination of the head, neck, and oral cavity to identify patients at risk for oral manifestations of systemic disease
• identifying clinical features of common and/or important oral manifestations of systemic disease
• developing a reasonable differential diagnosis
• presenting a management plan, which may include additional diagnostic tests, referral to and collaboration with other health professionals, and treatment