DEVELOPMENTAL DISTURBANCES

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DEVELOPMENTAL DISTURBANCES OF ORAL MUCOSA

FORDYCE'S GRANULES (FORDYCE'S DISEASE)

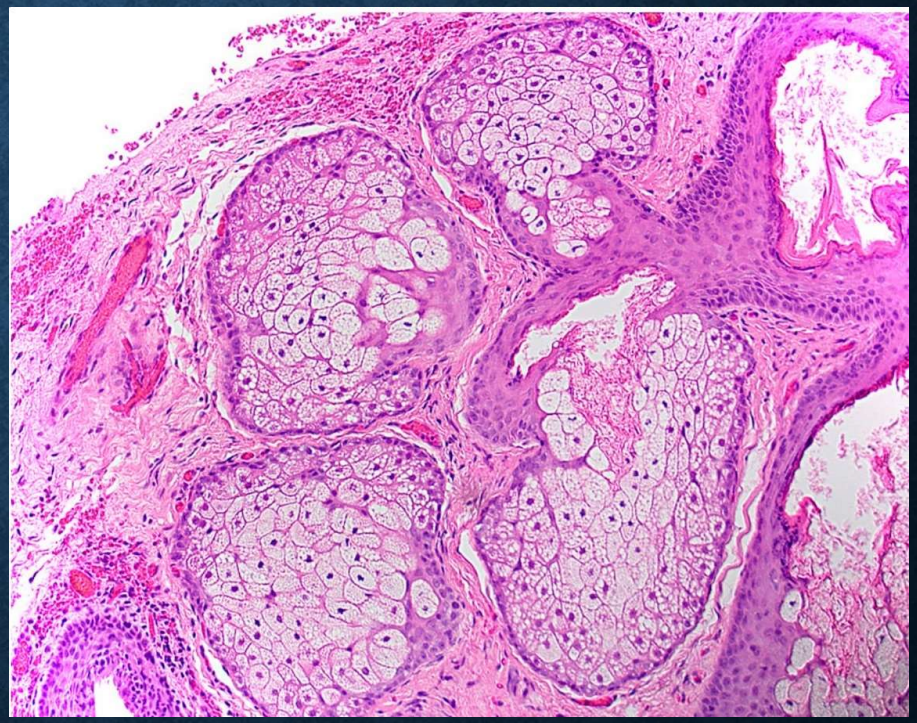
- A developmental anomaly characterized by heterotopic collections of sebaceous glands at various sites in the oral cavity.
- It has been postulated that the occurrence of sebaceous glands in the mouth may result from inclusion in the oral cavity of ectoderm having some of the potentialities of skin in the course of development of the maxillary and mandibular processes during embryonic life.

CLINICAL FEATURES

- Small yellow spots, either discretely separated or forming relatively large plaques,
- They are found most frequently in a bilaterally symmetrical pattern on the mucosa of the cheeks opposite the molar teeth
- Also occur on the inner surfaces of the lips, in the retromolar region lateral to the anterior faucial pillar, and occasionally on the tongue, gingiva, frenum, and palate.

HISTOLOGIC FEATURES

- These heterotopic collections of sebaceous glands are identical with those seen normally in the skin.
- unassociated with hair follicles



TREATMENT

- These glands are innocuous, have no clinical or functional significance, and require no treatment.
- However, very rarely a benign sebaceous gland adenoma may develop

FIBROMATOSIS GINGIVAE (ELEPHANTIASIS GINGIVAE, HEREDITARY GINGIVAL IBROMATOSIS, CONGENITAL MACROGINGIVAE)

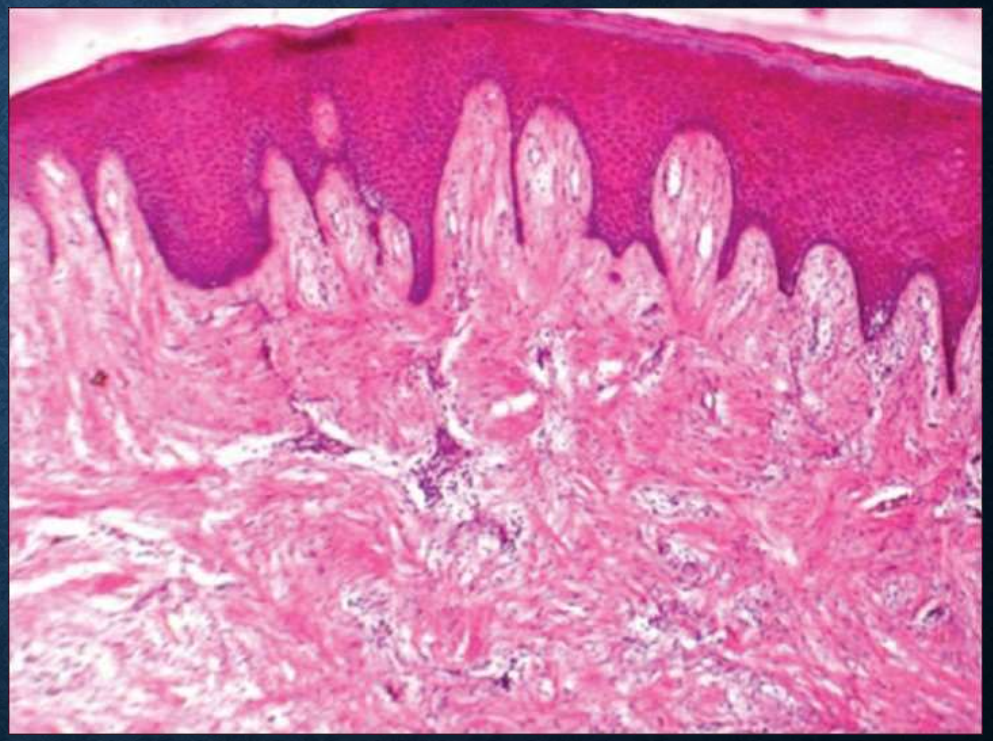
- a diffuse fibrous overgrowth of the gingival tissues
- transmitted through a dominant autosomal gene in majority of the cases
- many cases have appeared to be sporadic, with no familial background.
- Occasionally other abnormalities have been reported in association with fibromatosis gingivae, for eg, hypertrichosis.

CLINICAL FEATURES

- Dense, diffuse, smooth, or nodular overgrowth of the gingival tissues of one or both arches, usually appearing about the time of eruption of the permanent incisors.
- It has been reported in even very young children and, in a few instances, at birth
- The tissue is usually not inflamed, but is of normal or even pale color, and it is often so firm and dense that it may prevent the normal eruption of teeth.
- It is not painful and shows no tendency for hemorrhage.
- The extent of the tissue overgrowth may be such that the crowns of the teeth are nearly hidden even though they are fully erupted with respect to the alveolar bone

HISTOLOGIC FEATURES

- The epithelium may be somewhat thickened with elongated rete pegs
- bulk of the tissue is composed of dense fibrous connective tissue.
- The bundles of collagen fibers are coarse and show few interspersed fibroblasts or blood vessels.
- Inflammation is an unrelated and variable finding



TREATMENT AND PROGNOSIS

- When tooth eruption is impeded, surgical removal of the excessive tissue and exposure of the teeth are indicated.
- The cosmetic appearance may also require surgical excision.
- The lesion sometimes recurs.
- It has been reported that tooth extraction alone will cause the tissues to shrink almost to normal and that recurrences can be prevented by this means.