

Painless Management of Speckled Leukoplakia using Cryosurgery

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Cryosurgery is a well-known and well-documented treatment modality in orofacial lesions since 1960.¹ According to review of literature various studies has already proved the efficacy of cryosurgery in leukoplakia.^{2,3}

Cryosurgery was done for a male patient of age 38 years who was diagnosed with speckled leukoplakia on the left buccal mucosa (Figure 1). Cryosurgery was selected because of patients fear for scalpel surgery. The Patient was treated in outpatient department using liquid nitrogen and cryogun. Liquid nitrogen was sprayed directly into lesion using cryogun till ice ball was formed in the lesion (Figure 2). There was no intra operative or post-operative pain during cryosurgery and no anesthetic agents were used during treatment. The patient was recalled after 7 days and intra oral examination revealed a healing ulcer formation in the area of treatment (Figure 3). There was no pain or any symptoms on the site of treatment. The patient was recalled after 15 days of treatment, which showed healed ulcer and areas of re-epithelization (Figure 4). Patient compliance toward the treatment was good. The patient was advised to do review after 1-month.

Buccal mucosa is the common site for leukoplakia, which is an easily accessible area for cryosurgery. Cryosurgery has its own advantages and disadvantages like all treatment modalities, but when considering the advantages such as minimal pain, bleeding, less scarring, and less recurrence rate we should rethink about this treatment modality, which can be used as an alternative to surgical excision.

- Oral mucosa because of its various properties such as moistness and smoothness, it acts as a perfect area for cryosurgery.



Figure 1: Left buccal mucosa shows a grayish white patch indispersed with erythematous area



Figure 2: Photograph taken during cryosurgery showing ice ball formation on lesion

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Figure 3: Photograph taken on 8th day after cryosurgery showing healing ulcer formation on the area of lesion, which was covered by a thin layer of slough and periphery of ulcer was having whitish boundary



Figure 4: Photograph taken after 15 days of treatment, which shows healed ulcer and areas of re-epithelization

- Cryosurgery is an inexpensive, easy to perform treatment modality for speckled leukoplakia with minimal adverse effects, which can be repeated in multiple cycles without any complications based on the requirement.

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