

Image Correspondence

Phenytoin-Induced Gingival Enlargement

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A 22-year-old male presented with complaints of gingival hypertrophy [Figure 1] associated with poor dental hygiene since past 5 years. He was a known case of epilepsy and had been treated with phenytoin since past 7 years.

Drug-induced gingival enlargement is an adverse effect of three main classes of drugs: anticonvulsants, antihypertensive calcium channel blockers and the immunosuppressant cyclosporine. The prevalence of phenytoin-induced gingival overgrowth is variable ranging from 13% to 50%. Classically, it begins in the interdental papillae within the 1st month of starting phenytoin and increases to its maximum by 1 year. It affects chewing, speech and is also cosmetically disfiguring.



Figure 1: Phenytoin-induced gingival enlargement.

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