Pigmented Fungiform Papillae of the Tongue: Clinic and Dermoscopy

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Fungiform papillae, primarily located on the tip and lateral border, or dorsum surface of the tongue and intertwined with the filiform papillae, are mushroom-shaped epithelial elevations composed of taste buds at the upper surface overlying a core of connective tissue. Pigmented fungiform papillae of the tongue is a benign condition more common in dark-skinned adults and children, is characterized by localized hyperpigmentation which is confined to these structures. We report a case of 26 year-old-woman with pigmented fungiform papillae.

Fig-A: Homogeneous brownish macula with regular, non-infiltrated borders, in the left lateral region of the dorsum of the tongue.

Fig-B: Projections with pigmented borders, interspersed by dichotomized vessels, with aspect resembling to “rose petals” or “petalloïd aspect”.
A 26 year-old-woman presented with an asymptomatic pigmented lesion on the tongue of 10 years’ duration. Examination of the oral mucosa revealed homogeneous brownish macula with regular, non-infiltrated borders, in the left lateral region of the dorsum of the tongue (Fig-A). Dermoscopy was performed with the presence of projections with pigmented borders, interspersed by dichotomized vessels, with aspect resembling to “rose petals” or “petalloid aspect” (Fig-B). A diagnosis of pigmented fungiform papillae was retained and the patient was reassured of the benign nature of this disorder [1-3].

References