Symposium Ⅳ-1

Cause and treatment of gingival hyperpigmentation

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The most common cause of endogenous pigmentation of gingiva and mucosa is melanin which is deposited by the melanocytes mainly located in the basal and suprabasal cell layers of the epithelium. The epithelium-melanin unit is formed by the melanocytes and keratinocytes. The melanocytes are dendritic cells unattached to the surrounding epithelial cells that behave as unicellular exocrine glands. Active melanocytes convert tyrosine to melanin, which is transferred to the basal and prickle cell layers.

Melanin pigmentation of gingiva is regarded to have a genetic trait in some populations and is termed physiologic or racial gingival pigmentation. Although melanin hyperpigmentation does not provoke a medical problem, patients may have complaint in their unaesthetic black gums especially in case of excessive gingival display while smiling.

Remedy for gingival hyperpigmentation constitute various kinds of periodontal plastic surgeries of which aimed for patient-demanded improved esthetics. Whilst various curing methods have been advocated, selecting the particular technique depends on clinical experience and individual preferences.

주요 학력 및 경력 :

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