



DENTURE STOMATITIS: A CASE REPORT AND SMALL REVIEW ON QUACKERY

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ABSTRACT

Quacks exist in the dental profession especially in areas where there is poor access to oral healthcare either through lack of dentists or because of the cost of treatment at dental surgeries. Dental quackery describes the misinterpretation of the diagnosis and treatment of the dental disease. Most commonly dental quacks are the self-styled experts, whose basic tools are very incompetent and also fraud. Dental quacks are practicing roadside, which makes money by doing unethical practice and ultimately hampering patient's oral health.

KEYWORDS: Denture, Stomatitis, Quackery, Dentistry.

INTRODUCTION

Dentistry, like medicine, is a traditional, science-based, highly regulated health care profession that serves increasingly sophisticated and demanding clients.^[1] In current scenario dentistry and dentist are facing numerous challenges, in which one of the most important is the dental quackery.^[2] But what impels quackery? It results when competent and trained practitioners are in short supply or when their charges appear prohibitive to a segment of the population.^[3] Quackery has been defined as "the fraudulent misrepresentation of one's ability and experience in the diagnosis and treatment of disease or of the effects to be achieved by the treatment offered." These quacks or street dentists often visit villages on their bicycle with a bag consisting of some pliers, screwdrivers, dividers, self acrylic materials, etc.^[1] Because of the unethical practice of the dental quackery, the patient's oral health is in severe danger, and many complications are arising after such malpractice.^[2,4] Some of the basic procedures done by quacks are- extraction of teeth by using screwdrivers and pliers, restoration using self-curing acrylic as restorative material, use of suction disc on palatal surface of maxillary complete denture to increase retention, self-curing acrylic resin in embrasure area for splinting, use of wires in removable partial denture and fixing them with adjacent teeth, Removal partial denture made and fixed to the adjacent teeth with the help of self-curing acrylic resin. As a result of this non-medical and unethical treatment, patient's oral health has worsened such as erosion of the palatal mucosa due to placement

of suction device, erosion of gingiva due to acrylic restoration and fixation of prosthesis to gingiva with the help of self curing acrylic.^[4,5]

CASE REPORT

A 65 year old female patient reported to department with a complaint of impinging upper denture from 6 months and burning sensation on both side of cheek. Upon intra oral examination of patient solitary diffuse reddish inflamed eroded area with irregular border was present on anterior palate. [Fig-1].

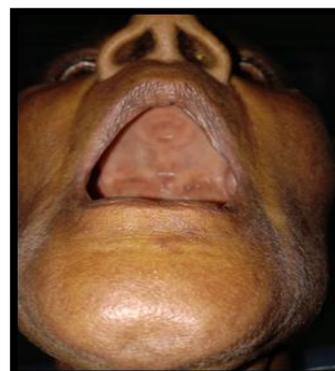


Fig-1: Diffuse reddish inflamed eroded area of anterior part of palate.

Eroded area of palate was tender on palpation, with no grooving and no discharge along with pigmented area present over the buccal mucosa bilaterally with diffuse

borders.[Fig-2,3] Intraoral examination also revealed loss of tongue papilla and pigmentation.[Fig-4]



Fig -2,3: Denoting the pigmentation of right and left buccal mucosa.



Fig-4: Loss of papilla of tongue and pigmentation of dorsal surface.

Maxillary occlusal cross sectional radiograph was performed and no bone abnormality detected. Plasma sugar levels and complete hemogram of patient were within normal limits. The use of old denture was discontinued immediately. Patient was prescribed with oral antibiotics Cap. Amoxicillin 500mg/TDS for 5 days and topical steroids Ointment. Triamcinolone Acetonide 0.1% to be applied 3-4 times/day to reduce the inflammation for 2 week and continued for 4 weeks.

DISCUSSION

Quacks exist in the dental profession especially in areas like rural areas, small cities where there is poor access to oral healthcare either through lack of dentists or because of the cost of treatment at dental surgeries. The term “Quackery” is derived from the word quacksalver i.e. the person who boasts his salves.^[1,2,5] The term “Quackery” can be defined as fraud practice or malpractice but as per literature it is defined as “the fraudulent misrepresentation of one’s ability and experience in the diagnosis and treatment of disease or of the effects to be achieved by the treatment offered.”^[1,6] Quacks are the persons who have observed qualified dental practitioners working on patients and learnt themselves the dental

techniques of the dental treatment, in different ways.^[5,6] Quacks learn various dental procedures while assisting dental surgeons and start practicing without any theoretical knowledge in rural areas or these quacks may be inherited this malpractice of quackery from their families and they adopted quackery as a profession.^[7] Quacks and other people who are doing this quackery practice are untrained nonqualified persons and basically these quacks do not have any scientific professional education and knowledge in the field of the dental practice. Quacks who are doing quackery having tools for malpractice which are usually incompetence, unhygienic, broken, old and fraud.^[8] Quacks are the person who never concern about sterilization of instruments using so they are big danger for the oral as well overall health of patient as well as for society. Quacks use the instrument as per their convince like screw drivers for extractions, self cure acrylic for restorations as well for fixing loose teeth, steel wires for fixing removal partial dentures.^[7]

Quackery in Prosthetic Dentistry

A huge world of quackery is seen mainly in the field of Prosthodontics. Quacks commonly known by the names of denturists are playing with life of patients by using old extracted teeth with self cure acrylic to replace missing teeth as the name of fixed prosthetics. Various Faulty Prosthesis:^[8]

Suction Disc

Maxillary dentures are made by quacks with suction discs inserted so that maxillary dentures did provide sufficient retention and stability to the patients. These suction discs of maxillary denture provides required amount of retention by creating negative pressure on the palatal tissue mucosal surface. This negative pressure of suction denture induces harmful effect on palatal mucosal tissues by reducing blood circulation, which produces hypoxic state in the affected area and necrosis of mucosal tissue and various fungal infections. The underlying bony part of palate also affected by this leading to tissues perforation, which may cause death of patient in later stage.^[8]

Wire Retained Fixed Partial Dentures

Quacks uses steel wires to stabilize the mobile tooth or ill-fitted denture with the support of adjacent teeth. These types of temporary replacements are called fixed dentures, by quacks. These ill-fitted dentures always harm oral health of the patients, and may damage the remaining healthy adjacent teeth and mucosa. These quackery procedures are very harmful to the patients as they can lead to bone loss and adjacent tooth loss.^[8]

Other Faulty Prosthesis

Restoration of midline diastema space of maxillary arch and other gaps between the teeth with artificial teeth retained with self-cure acrylic. Such prosthesis may worsen the condition of soft tissues, cause various infections and may create more spaces between the teeth.^[8]

Harmful Effects of Dental Quackery

Dental quack is characterized by a lack of proper theoretical knowledge and effectiveness for diagnosis, treatment of patients or prevention of diseases in concern with the dental treatment. Quacks also do not have valid scientific degree or diploma. Thus the dental quackery can lead to various harmful effects like:^[2]

- Placement of suction disc in maxillary denture can lead to erosion of the palatal mucosa and perforation of palatal bone underneath.
- Fixed denture with self cure acrylic which may cause red erosions of the gingival tissue, bone loss or loss of adjacent tooth.
- Use of unsterilized dental instruments and malpractice tools can lead to transmission of life threatening infections to patients like HIV.
- Dental quacks may also advise the use of direct application of 30% hydrogen peroxide in some patients to remove stains of teeth, which has harmful effect on pulp tissue of teeth like obliteration of odontoblasts, hemorrhage, resorption and inflammatory infiltration through pulp canal.
- Quacks can lead to misdiagnosis and/or incorrect treatment for serious and potentially life-threatening disease.

CONCLUSION

Quackery is fake practicing of dental treatment from the last many decades. Dentistry has come a long way in the last century and a half, to the point where today it is ranked as one of the most respected of professions. It is necessary for dentists practicing everywhere to protect that hard-earned reputation by throwing out quacks from among them. Dentists are expected by patients, colleagues and Government to keep level of new techniques and development of new skills. Thus it is high time for the all dental professionals of present era to fight against the quackery for the health of the patients and also importantly to save this prestigious dental profession.

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