

Gingival Hypertrophy due to Drugs

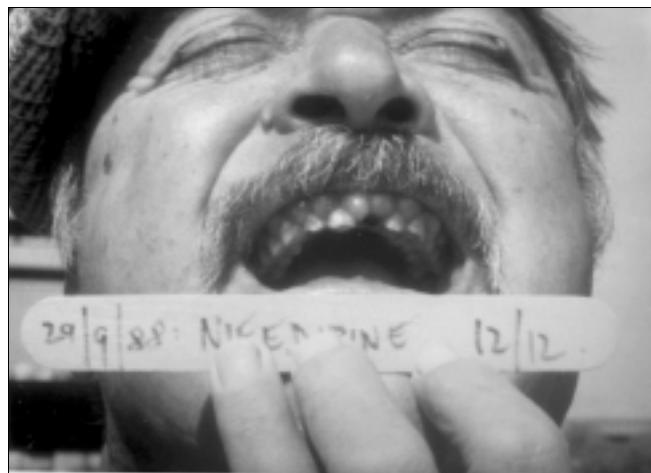
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Moderately hypertrophied gums in a 16 year girl who has been epileptic for 6 years and was treated with phenytoin 150 mg daily for 3 years and then 225 mg daily. Garoin, a proprietary preparation of phenytoin, is abbreviated as "Gar" on the tongue depressor.



In this male patient with chronic stable angina and hypertension, severe gingival hypertrophy occurred after 12 months therapy with nifedipine 40 mg daily. The patient was 57 years old when photographed.

Phenytoin for epilepsy, cyclosporine to prevent rejection of organ transplants, and the calcium antagonists for hypertension and myocardial ischaemia, nifedipine in particular, often cause hypertrophy of the gums. Overall, the other factors necessary for gingival overgrowth are prolonged administration of

these drugs, the presence of teeth, and questionable oral hygiene. The exact mechanisms causing the fibroblastic reaction, clinically expressed as gingival hypertrophy, are unknown.

The pictures here portray drug-induced gum hypertrophy.

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