

## Desquamative Gingivitis: A Quick Review

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Desquamative gingivitis describes a painful, non-plaque induced, sloughing of the gingiva. It is not a diagnosis but is instead a term applied to the manifestation of a multitude of mucocutaneous, systemic, allergic, and immunologic diseases.

It is characterized by fiery red, glazed, atrophic or eroded looking gingiva.

Presence of cutaneous, nasal, ocular and genital lesions should be carefully elicited from the patient. If a blistering condition is diagnosed, referral to an appropriate specialist is advised.



**Figure a**

There is loss of stippling and the gingiva may desquamate easily with minimal trauma.

The lesions of desquamative gingivitis can occur at any gingival site but are most common on the labial aspect of anterior teeth.

Common in middle-aged to elderly females.

Painful

### **Diseases clinically presenting as desquamative gingivitis**

Oral Lichen planus, Pemphigus vulgaris, Mucous membrane pemphigoid

### **Other Diseases clinically presenting as desquamative gingivitis**

Erythema multiforme, Graft versus host disease, Lupus erythematosus, Chronic ulcerative stomatitis, Plasma cell gingivitis, Linear IgA disease, Dermatitis herpetiformis, Epidermolysis bullosa, Epidermolysis bullosa acquisita, Paraneoplastic pemphigus, Psoriasis, Foreign body gingivitis, Drug-induced lesions, Leukemias.

### **Conclusion**

Correct identification of these conditions entails taking a careful history and performing a thorough intra-oral examination.