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Great mimickers in oral pathology: benign lesions mimicking malignancy versus malignancy imitating benign lesions

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In the field of Oral Pathology, there are several lesions which may resemble malignancy either clinically or histologically, sometimes both. Lesions in this group which will be presented include adenomatoid hyperplasia of minor salivary glands, necrotizing sialometaplasia and traumatic granuloma with stromal eosinophilia (Eosinophilic Ulcer). Clinical and histological characteristics will be discussed, with emphasis on differential diagnosis. The relative frequency of these lesions in comparison with the neoplasms they mimic will also be presented, and an overview of some misleading paradigms regarding these lesions will be included. A second group of lesions in the presentation will be malignancies imitating benign lesions. These will include peri-implant malignancies as well as some metastasis to the oral cavity and jaws from various distant primaries, which often mimic reactive lesions, as well as being the first presentation of the malignancy in selected cases.

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