


XVII. DISEASES OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

Stomatitis			
The mouth:	Is opened to show its interior Shows inflammation and oedema		
	Mucous membrane:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red (in parts) • Greyish-white (in parts) • Few papules • Little keratin 	
<p>N.B.I: Stomatitis (inflammation of the mucous membrane of mouth) may be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A local condition or 2. A part of a generalized disease. 			
			
Types:			
<p>1. Simple catarrhal. (Redness & swelling). Due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sharp teeth;</i> • <i>Hot drinks;</i> • <i>Over-smoking;</i> • <i>Drugs such as</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Mercury,</i> ○ <i>Bismuth,</i> ○ <i>Arsenic or</i> ○ <i>Iodides;</i> • <i>Fevers such as typhoid.</i> 			
<p>2. Dyspeptic (aphthous):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small, • Rounded or oval ulcers • On gums, cheek and underneath the tongue. <p>Due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gastro-intestinal disturbances; 			

- Strepto-or staphylococcal infection or
- Unknown causes.



3. Ulcerative: Irregular ulcers with slough-formation.

Due to:

- (a) **Vincent's organisms** (a spirochaete associated with a fusiform bacillus) membranous inflammation of: Mouth; gums; tonsils; pharynx.
- (b) **Leukaemia** → ulcers and haemorrhages.
- (c) **Agranulocytosis** → severe inflammation in mouth and pharynx.
- (d) **Mercurial and arsenical compounds.**

4. Parasitic (thrush): White patches on gums and cheek.

Common in:

- Debilitated infants and weak young adults;
- Artificially-fed children.

Due to:

- A fungus or
- *Candida albicans*.



5. Gangrenous (Cancrum oris): Starts as an ulcer inside the cheek rapidly growing: shows black spots (gangrene) → perforation.

Due to:

- Infectious diseases (in debilitated children).
- Advanced pulmonary tuberculosis (in adults).

Fatality: Bronchopneumonia.

A similar condition, when occurring in the vulva, is called **Noma**.

6. Herpetic: Small vesicles (and ulcers).

Due to: Herpes simplex.

7. Diabetic: Dryness of mouth; erythema of mucosa of mouth, tongue and gums.



N.B.2:

Other lesions in mouth appear in the following diseases:

- **Tuberculosis: Uncommon.**
- From advanced pulmonary tuberculosis → irregular ulcers with undermined edges
- **Syphilis:**
 - Congenital (rhagades or fissures at angles of mouth).
 - *Acquired (chancre and mucous patches).*
- **Actinomyces:** Multiple hard nodules and sinuses containing Sulphur-like granules.
- **Tumours:**
 - a) **Benign (rare).**
 - b) **Malignant:** At floor of mouth (usually).
 - At cheek or palate (rarely).
 - Usually well-differentiated carcinoma (**squamous cell type**).
 - Greater extension laterally than deeply.
 - **Leucoplakia,**
 - **Avitaminosis,**
 - **Sepsis and s**
 - **Smoking may act as predisposing factors.**
- **Congenital abnormalities:**
 - **Microstoma** (small opening) or '
 - **Macrostoma** (large).
 - **Cleft soft palate** (or soft and hard palate).

