

# **DESQUAMATIVE ORAL MUCOUS MEMBRANE DISEASES**

**- A REVIEW**

*Library Dissertation Submitted to  
the Department of Periodontics  
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree  
of Master Of Dental Surgery  
in the speciality of Periodontics.*

**1997-98**

**DR. ANIRUDH B. ACHARYA**

Dept. Of Periodontics  
S.D.M.College Of Dental Sciences & Hospital  
Dharwad.



The oral cavity is considered the "window" to the systemic status of an individual, because the oral cavity is unique. The structure of the oral mucous membrane resembles the skin in many ways. It is composed of the epithelium and the connective tissue. The connective tissue component of the oral mucosa is called the lamina propria which is comparable to the dermis or corium of the skin. This basic structure of the oral mucous membrane including the gingiva, implies a design for a particular purpose and to accomplish a particular task. For the human oral mucous membrane, this task is protection. They are designed in such a way so as to provide the frame work for peripheral body defense, just as the skin gives an external body protection. A sophisticated system of repair and healing is also provided.

However, the oral mucosa is thin, and in a diseased state, erosions, ulcerations and desquamation will result in easy traumatization and susceptibility to secondary infections by the oral flora.

Various systemic pathologic conditions, more commonly dermatoses (skin diseases) and also chronic bacterial and mycotic infections and drug eruptions, and at times hormonal influences are accompanied by the involvement of the oral mucous membrane, including the gingiva, which are characterized by erosive, desquamative and vesiculo-bullous lesions.

For many years, erosive and desquamative lesions of the oral mucosa and gingiva were termed "desquamative gingivitis", and certain workers even