

*Estimation and Comparison of Salivary  
Collagenase Levels and Immunoglobulin  
Profiles in Normal Healthy Individuals and  
in Oral Submucous Fibrosis Patients  
- A Clinical Study.*



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Oral submucous fibrosis is one of the crippling diseases that impede the normal life. It is defined as a slowly progressive disease in which fibrous bands form in the oral mucosa, ultimately leading to severe restriction of movement of the mouth, including the tongue <sup>68</sup>.

Scanning our history of ancient medicine, **Sushruta** in his classification of mouth and throat disorders mentioned a condition "VIDARI", having features of progressive narrowing of mouth, depigmentation of oral cavity, and pain on eating food <sup>12,13</sup>.

Although the disease most likely has been present for centuries as described by Sushruta in his treatise, it was not described in the modern scientific literature till 1952. **Schwartz J in 1952** was the first to report this condition in a group of Indian women from East Africa<sup>56</sup>. **Joshi S.G and Lal D in 1953**, reported a similar condition in India and they suggested the present nomenclature of Oral submucous fibrosis<sup>27,32</sup>. Oral submucous fibrosis has been described with various names - Atrophia Idiopathica (Tropica) mucosa oris (**Schwartz, 1952**), Idiopathic scleroderma of the mouth (**Su, 1954**), Sclerosing stomatitis (**Behl, 1962**), Idiopathic palatal fibrosis (**Rao, 1962**) and Idiopathic oral fibrosis (**Abrol, 1977**)<sup>1</sup>.

Oral submucous fibrosis receives its nomenclature from the clinical picture in its well developed state, viz. - the deposition of inelastic fibrous tissue in the submucosal layer of palate, fauces, cheek, floor of the mouth and tongue, causing disabling sequel with no other primary effects on the other parts of the body<sup>13</sup>. In these cases the mucosa assumes a pale marble-like appearance and fibrous bands at the affected areas can be felt. As a consequence, the patient is unable to open his mouth and perform the normal functions of the oral cavity. Sometimes oral submucous fibrosis is preceded by and/or associated with vesicle formation<sup>49</sup>.