Preface

The authors of *Oral Pathology & the Pediatric Patient: A Clinical Guide to the Diagnosis of Mucosal Lesions* both practice clinical oral pathology in New York City and are certified by the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology. Based on their experience seeing patients and supervising an active biopsy service, they have compiled a sampling of the oral mucosal lesions most likely to be encountered in children in everyday practice. The authors’ goal was to create an easy to use reference guide for clinicians to turn to for guidance in identifying and managing oral mucosal lesions in pediatric patients.

Oral mucosal lesions are not uncommon in the pediatric population. Fortunately, the vast majority of these mucosal lesions are benign and many are transient – being of either a traumatic or infectious etiology. Often times a diagnosis can be rendered by coupling a careful clinical history with the clinical presentation.

For each entity covered in this manual, characteristic clinical photographs are provided, the clinical appearance is concisely described, and guidance is offered on formulating a differential diagnosis and selecting appropriate treatment.

Oral mucosal indications of systemic diseases, clinical indicators of drug use, sexual abuse, and eating disorders are addressed in section two.

For those lesions in which the clinical diagnosis and subsequent patient management is unclear, it is best to seek a second opinion from a specialist. In addition, it is also often prudent to communicate your findings to the child’s pediatrician. Having a complete and accurate medical history is crucial for proper patient management.

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