



Oral manifestations in COVID-19: a review of the literature

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COVID-19 has come to be considered an urgent health challenge due to the ease of transmission of its causative virus (SARS-CoV-2), rapidly becoming a pandemic, with an accelerating number of new cases and thousands of deaths recorded. The investigations about the possible correlations of the pathogenic action of SARS-CoV-2 with the oral cavity are recent, deserving special attention from the dental sciences. Therefore, the aim of this review is to analyze the existing literature that has scientific evidence on the main oral manifestations in patients affected with COVID-19 and which of them may appear in the course of the infection. A literature review was carried out using electronic scientific journals, dental books and scientific articles indexed in the electronic portals of the Virtual Health Library (VHL) and PubMed, between the years 2020 and 2022. The present study shows that SARS-CoV2 has specific receptors with which it binds to the oral cavity and that mild or moderate taste alterations are the most commonly reported manifestations, besides fungal and viral lesions in oral mucosa. Among these lesions, the erosive or ulcerative lesions present clinically with intense painful symptoms, with irregular borders, and are usually found on the tongue, labial mucosa and palate. However, because it is a relatively new pathology in the medical and dental literature, clinical studies are needed to investigate whether coronavirus infection is the primary factor for the appearance of ulcerated lesions, or whether the patient's immune system deficiency and oral hygiene conditions are preponderant in the pathogenesis of such lesions. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is worth highlighting the importance of the dental surgeon's role in the diagnosis and treatment of possible oral alterations, increasing the quality of life of patients.

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