

Hourya Alnofaie*, f, BDS, MSc**

*4th year dental student, college of dentistry, King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

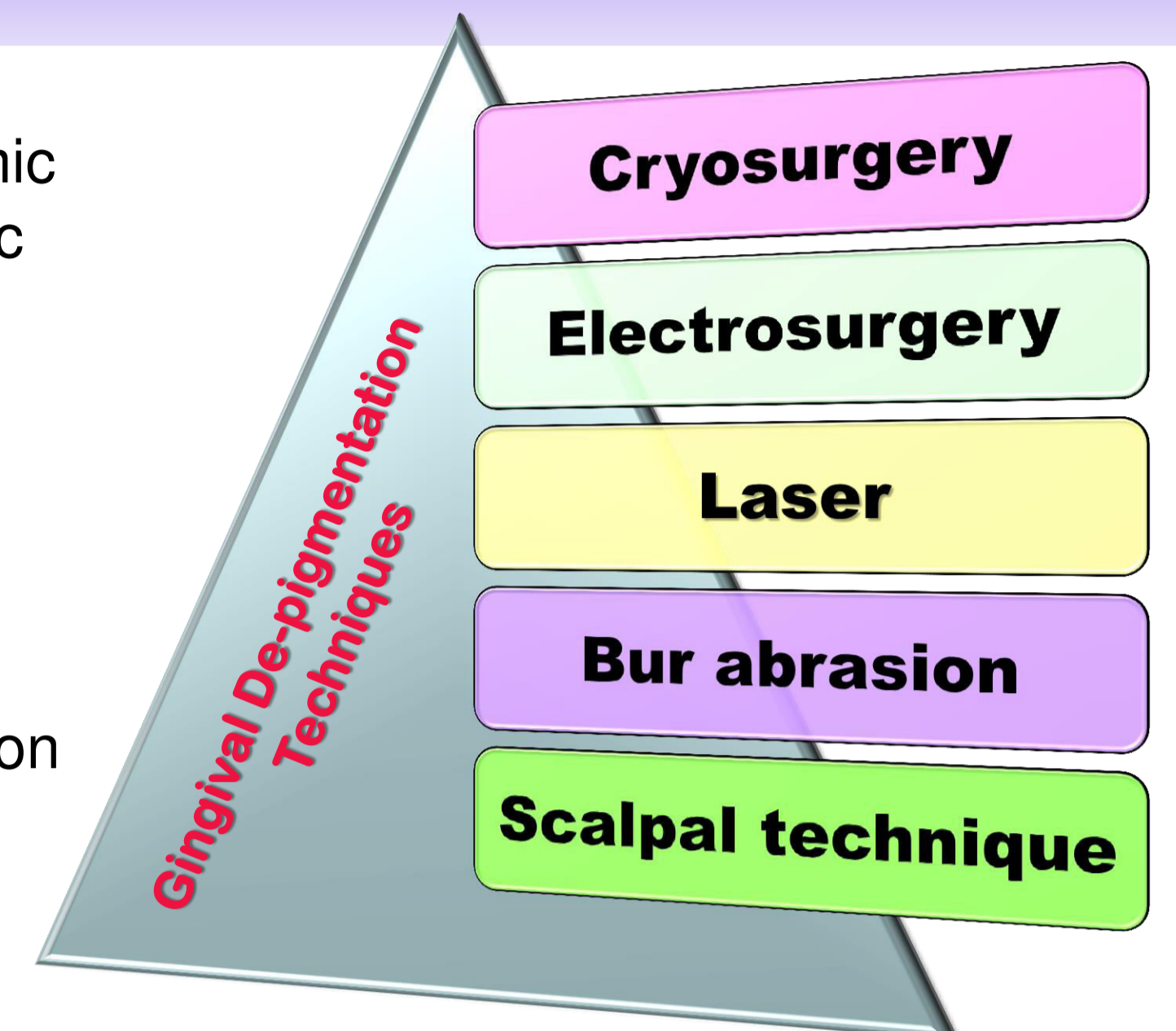
**Periodontist and lecturer, Department of periodontics and community dentistry, King Saud University, Saudi Arabia.

Introduction

Gingival melanin hyperpigmentation is a clinical discoloration of the gingiva which is associated with local and or systemic factors including genetic, tobacco use, prolonged administration of certain drugs especially antimalarial agents and tricyclic antidepressants.¹ The Pigmentation is mostly located in the anterior labial gingiva, affecting females more than males.²

It can be treated by gingival depigmentation which is a periodontal procedure where the hyperpigmentation is removed by various. Systematic reviews show that cryosurgery exhibits the optimal predictability for depigmentation, followed by electrosurgery and laser techniques.³

The case series presented here used bur abrasion/scraping technique for the management of gingival melanin pigmentation exclusively for the esthetic purpose. The technique is simple, versatile & cost effective and does not require sophisticated instrument or apparatus but still providing satisfactory & stable outcome after 5 years follow-up.



Materials & Methods

Three cases were selected as the patients were healthy with no history of systemic diseases or smoking, and presented with a greater degree of gingival pigmentation compared to their skin colour. Based on that, a decision was taken to do an anterior depigmentation by "Surgical abrasion" using round diamond bur.

Case Series



Figure 1: Pre-operative picture of 22 years-old Saudi female.



Figure 2: Depigmentation of lower arch.



Figure 3: Depigmentation of upper arch.



Figure 4: 5 Years follow up



Figure 5 Pre-operative picture of 32 years-old Saudi male.



Figure 6: Depigmentation of lower arch.



Figure 7: Depigmentation of upper arch.



Figure 8: 5 Years follow up



Figure 9: Pre-operative picture of 23 years-old Saudi female.



Figure 10: Depigmentation of lower arch.



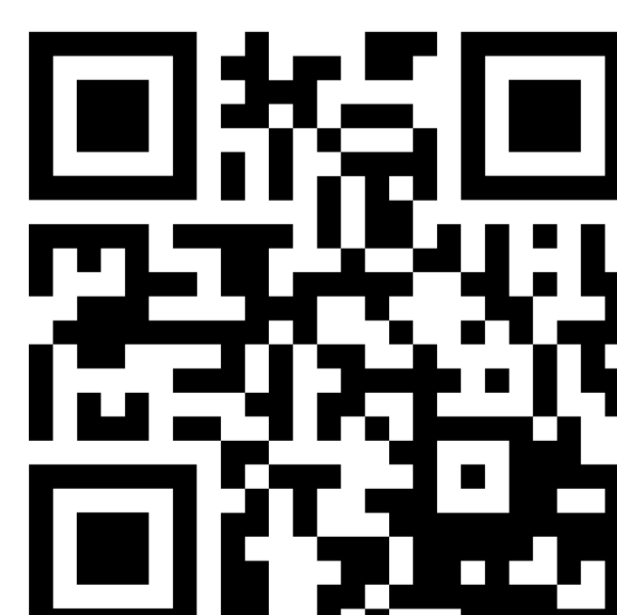
Figure 11: Depigmentation of upper arch.



Figure 12: 5 Years follow up

Conclusions

Gingival depigmentation is a periodontal plastic procedure should be included in the treatment options designed to ensure more accurate esthetic outcome thereby enhancing the confidence of the patient. The bur/scraping technique provided stable clinical results with minimal postoperative discomfort.



References

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3. Lin YH, Tu YK, Lu CT, Chung WC, Huang CF, Huang MS, Lu HK **Systematic Review of Treatment Modalities for Gingival Depigmentation:A Random-Effects Poisson Regression Analysis.** J Esthet Restor Dent 2014, 26:162-178.