Gingival Depigmentation in Esthetic Area: A case series

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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. The Pigmentation is mostly located in the anterior labial gingiva, affecting females more than males.

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.

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.](image1)
![Figure 2: Depigmentation of lower arch.](image2)
![Figure 3: Depigmentation of upper arch.](image3)
![Figure 4: 5 Years follow up](image4)

![Figure 5: Pre-operative picture of 32 years-old Saudi male.](image5)
![Figure 6: Depigmentation of lower arch.](image6)
![Figure 7: Depigmentation of upper arch.](image7)
![Figure 8: 5 Years follow up](image8)

![Figure 9: Pre-operative picture of 23 years-old Saudi female.](image9)
![Figure 10: Depigmentation of lower arch.](image10)
![Figure 11: Depigmentation of upper arch.](image11)
![Figure 12: 5 Years follow up](image12)

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