

## IMAGES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE

## Pyostomatitis Vegetans



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A 63-YEAR-OLD MAN WAS EVALUATED FOR A 6-MONTH HISTORY OF ORAL ulcerations. His medical history was notable for ulcerative colitis. Physical examination revealed numerous white, friable micropustules in a cobblestone pattern on labial and buccal mucosae, as well as ulcerations and hemorrhagic crusting (Panel A). A shave-biopsy specimen revealed an acanthotic epidermis, parakeratosis, exocytosis of neutrophils, and microabscesses. Pyostomatitis vegetans was diagnosed. Pyostomatitis vegetans is an oral manifestation of inflammatory bowel disease, more commonly seen in patients with ulcerative colitis. Bowel disease can precede oral lesions by years. Such lesions may also be a marker of subclinical intestinal disease. Pathogenesis is attributed to antigens that cross-react between the bowel and the skin. Treatment is aimed at controlling intestinal disease; the administration of antineutrophilic agents has also been effective. The patient was treated with dapsone, 200 mg daily, with improvement in the ulcerations within 1 week after the initiation of therapy (Panel B) and no residual oral lesions at the 1-year follow-up (Panel C).

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