

## Strawberry Gingivitis - A Diagnostic Clue in a Male With Epistaxis and Hemoptysis

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### Case Presentation

A young male presented with the complaint of gingival swelling which started 15 days before and increased rapidly in size. He gave a history of productive cough with bouts of streaky hemoptysis for the past 9 months along with episodes of rhinitis, nasal crusting and nasal bleeding for the past 1 month. On mucocutaneous examination, enlargement of maxillary gingiva and lower labial mucosa was observed with granular surface and overlying petechial spots giving an appearance of a “ripe strawberry”. Investigations revealed ground glass opacities in the lungs on contrast-enhanced computed tomography (CECT) chest, maxillary sinusitis on non-contrast computed tomography scan of the paranasal sinuses (NCCT PNS) and positive cytoplasmic antineutrophil cytoplasmic autoantibody (C-ANCA) serology. On the basis of above findings, a diagnosis of Wegener granulomatosis (WG) was established

and the patient was started on oral corticosteroids and immunosuppressants.

### Teaching Point

WG is characterized by necrotizing and granulomatous vasculitis predominantly affecting the respiratory tract and kidneys but may also involve other tissues [1]. Oral involvement in WG is observed in 6%-13% of patients and oral cavity may be the first site of involvement in 5%–6% of cases [1]. Strawberry gingivitis is considered to be a characteristic sign of WG and presents as red to purple enlarged gingiva with petechiae and granular surface resembling an over-ripe strawberry. Other differentials for similar gingival enlargement include drug-induced gingival hypertrophy, hemangiomas, pyogenic granulomas, Crohn’s disease, sarcoidosis, peripheral giant cell granuloma and Kaposi sarcoma [2]. Presence of characteristic strawberry gingivitis is a vital clue



**Figure 1.** Diffuse edematous and erythematous gingival hyperplasia with petechial spots giving an appearance of a ripe strawberry.

in the patients of WG who otherwise lack several other typical features.

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