Background

- Oral lichen planus (OLP) is an autoimmune reaction disease that affects approximately 1% of the US population every year.\(^1\) Most common in middle-aged adults (30-70 yrs), OLP can develop on one or several parts of the body, appearing on the skin or inside the mouth, although women get LP in their mouths more frequently (60%) than men.\(^2\)
- The most common symptom of OLP is the appearance of white lacy patches (Wickham’s striae), although redness and swelling, peeling of the gums or painful sores may also be present.\(^3\)
- LP in general is slow to resolve, especially the oral form. The average duration of the condition is four years but even after going away, OLP may recur.

Case Study

A 58-year-old female was seen with episodic inflammatory gingiva, showing red and white changes on both the left and right side of the mandible, sometimes erythematous and erosive. Clinical impression of lichen planus was confirmed via biopsy. The patient was instructed to rinse with one half ounce of CloSYS fluoride free oral rinse twice a day. When the patient was seen four weeks later, the signs and symptoms had abated and the patient reported a reduction in pain associated with the condition. See Figure below.

Conclusion

The lesions commonly seen in OLP are thought to be an inflammatory reaction caused by a variety of things including an underlying infection, such as Hepatitis C, but may also be a reaction to use of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, allergy causing agents or even mechanical mechanisms.

CloSYS oral rinse is known to kill 99.9% of bacteria within 10 seconds and it is theorized that the reduction in bacteria allows the body the opportunity to heal the underlying issue on its own.

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\(^3\) The Mayo Clinic, accessed at [http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/oral-lichen-planus/basics/definition/con-20028031](http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/oral-lichen-planus/basics/definition/con-20028031)