Quick Clinical Reference Chart for Visual Inspection of the Oral Cavity to Detect Precancerous Lesions and Invasive Cancers

Homogeneous leukoplakia located on the right margin of the anterior tongue: note the well-defined white plaque that cannot be removed.

Homogeneous leukoplakia with central fissuring in the left buccal mucosa: note the diffuse white patch with the fingerprint-like pattern.

Non-homogeneous leukoplakia (erythroleukoplakia) right commissure: note the white lesion with ulceration.

Non-homogeneous leukoplakia (nodular leukoplakia) right margin of the tongue: note the white nodules (thin arrows) on an erythematous base (thick arrow).

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Non-homogeneous leukoplakia (verruous leukoplakia): note the raised, thick and white patches on the right side of the dorsum tongue.

Non-homogeneous leukoplakia (verruous leukoplakia) hard palate: a diffuse white patch can be seen involving the left and middle portions of the hard palate with warty projections.

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Homogeneous leukoplakia right buccal mucosa: note the diffuse white patch with the fingerprint-like pattern.

Erythroplakia right buccal mucosa: note the red, velvety oval lesion.

Oral submucous fibrosis: note the blanching in the lower labial mucosa.

Oral submucous fibrosis: note the multiple pin point petechiae and generalised depapillation of the tongue.

Oral submucous fibrosis involving the entire anterior tongue with leukoplakia (thick arrows).

Non-homogeneous leukoplakia (verruous leukoplakia) hard palate: a diffuse white patch can be seen involving the left and middle portions of the hard palate with warty projections.

Lichen planus in the right buccal mucosa: note the annular rings (thin arrow) with raised white Wickham's striae (thick arrow).

Invasive cancer in the left commissure with raised horny projections.

Malignant transformation in a homogeneous leukoplakia as indicated by hard, indurated nodules (arrows).

Exophytic proliferative growth in the left lateral margin of the tongue: note the co-existing depapillation of the tongue.

Advances, ulceroproliferative invasive oral cancer in the right lateral margin of the tongue: note the co-existing submucous fibrosis.

Malignant melanoma left buccal mucosa: note the hyperpigmented patch with nodular areas.

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