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**Pathology Question:**

What is contact stomatitis and what dental materials can cause it to occur?

**Report:**

Contact stomatitis refers to inflammation of the oral tissue caused by some sort of irritant, and can have multiple etiologies, it can be caused by mechanical or chemical irritation. Contact stomatitis caused by dental materials is usually caused by some sort of allergic reaction to the irritant. Food and food additives, gum, candies, dentifrices, mouthwashes, gloves and rubber dam materials, topical anesthetics, restorative metals, acrylic denture materials, impression and denture adhesive materials have all been mentioned as causing allergic contact stomatitis. Allergic contact stomatitis is usually a result of a type IV hypersensitivity reaction to a specific allergen but is rarely the result of type I hypersensitivity reaction: it can be acute or chronic. Acute contact stomatitis occurs when the oral tissue is exposed to the irritant, but the irritant is not in constant contact with the oral tissues, such as using mouthwash. Chronic contact stomatitis occurs when the irritant is in constant contact with the oral tissue, such as the dental restoration materials. Many dental restorative materials can cause contact stomatitis including composites and metal restorations. Base metals are the most common irritants in restorative materials but almost all metals used in restorative procedures have been shown to cause contact stomatitis in some cases. High noble metals have been shown to have a very low prevalence of contact stomatitis, but it still does occur on occasion. High noble cast crowns seem to be the best metal crowns to avoid contact stomatitis. When Contact stomatitis cause by dental restoration commonly appear similar to oral lichen planus, but will not migrate away from the contact area like true oral lichen planus. Contact stomatitis, both acute and chronic, occur more commonly in females compared to males. The most common symptom of acute contact stomatitis is burning of the affected tissue. Its appearance is variable from mild, barely visible redness to extremely erythematous lesion with or without edema. Chronic contact stomatitis appears either erythematous or white and hyperkeratotic around the area of contact in the mouth. Treatment of contact stomatitis involves either removal or avoidance of the irritant, but sometimes will require anti-histamine therapy in severe cases.

**References:**

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