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Laugier–hunziker syndrome

What is Laugier–Hunziker syndrome?

Laugier–Hunziker syndrome is a harmless rare sporadic disorder that is characterised by flat brown marks on the lips and inside the mouth, and frequently brown stripes on the nails. It is important to distinguish it from [Peutz-Jegher syndrome](#), which has similar cutaneous features but also has associated gastrointestinal polyps. .

The cause of Laugier–Hunziker syndrome is unknown. It does not appear to run in families, although there has been one reported case involving a mother and two daughters with the condition. The syndrome occurs in early to mid adult life and affects both males and females.

What are the clinical features of Laugier–Hunziker syndrome?

The main clinical feature of Laugier–Hunziker syndrome is the appearance of pigmentation (dark spots) on the buccal mucosa (inner lining of the cheeks) and the lips (usually the lower lip). Sometimes pigmentation is also found on the gingiva (gums), tongue, and roof of the mouth. Features of the lesions are:

- brown, black or slate marks that have a smooth surface
- they appear as solitary spots, grouping of multiple spots, or spots joined together to form patches
- usually 5mm or less in diameter, but buccal lesions of 1cm have been reported

Oral hyperpigmentation may be accompanied by nail and/or skin pigmentation. Oral and nail involvement is found in about 60% of cases. Nail pigmentation is permanent and appears in the following ways:

- one longitudinal band per nail, 1–8 mm thick
- two longitudinal bands per nail, 1–8 mm thick
- pigmentation of half a nail
- complete pigmentation of a nail

Skin hyperpigmentation is sometimes found on the neck, abdomen, fingers, palms, soles and genital region.

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What is the treatment for Laugier–Hunziker syndrome?

No treatment is required for Laugier–Hunziker syndrome. Laugier–Hunziker has no association with systemic

diseases so there are few if any complications. If systemic symptoms are apparent a patient must be worked-up for another diagnosis.

Cosmetically disfiguring or bothersome lesions may be treated with [laser therapy](#).

Related information

References:

- Book: Textbook of Dermatology. Ed Rook A, Wilkinson DS, Ebling FJB, Champion RH, Burton JL. Fourth edition. Blackwell Scientific Publications.

On DermNet NZ:

- [Nail abnormalities](#)
- [Oral lesions](#)

Other websites:

- [Laugier–Hunziker Syndrome](#) – emedicine dermatology, the online textbook

Books about skin diseases:

See the [DermNet NZ bookstore](#)

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DermNet does not provide an on-line consultation service.

If you have any concerns with your skin or its treatment, see a [dermatologist](#) for advice.

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