

# Sexually Transmissible Oral Diseases

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*To Victims of Covid-19 pandemic and all those frontline healthcare workers who are engaged in the fight against the disease with utmost dedication and courage*

## Foreword



**It** is a pleasure and a delight for me to pen this message for the inaugural edition of the '*Sexually Transmissible Oral Diseases*' edited by Professor Prabhu.

Even from ancient times it was known that sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) manifested in the mouth. For instance, syphilis and its gummatous manifestations of the oral cavity were known even during Roman times, though the infectivity and presentation of other STDs such as papilloma virus infections leading to oral cancers were a relatively recent finding. These and a plethora of other STDs well described in the book, are now known to manifest intraorally. This comprehensive compendium which brings together the relevant details of all such diseases in a practical, comprehensive and an easily assimilable format, in a single tome is likely to be a wellspring of information for dental practitioners, undergraduate students and postgraduates alike.

The book is timely from three different perspectives. First, due to the sexual promiscuity and the rampant narcotic and drug abuse, there has been an alarming increase in STDs particularly gonorrhoea and syphilis, mainly in the developing world. Second, the gradual realisation that oral health is a key to systemic health, and the importance of the oral-systemic axis by the health professions in general, and finally, the fundamental conceptual realisation that dentists are not only oral surgeons but also oral physicians who are able to advice, diagnose, care and prevent systemic diseases through a number of avenues available to them including the rapidly developing field of salivomics. Such expanded repertoire of dentistry means a deeper understanding of aetiopathogenesis of common STDs, and hence, this book will be a welcome addition to the libraries of all dental practitioners and dental schools.

In closing, I wish to congratulate the team led by Professor Prabhu, for this excellent initiative that fills a relatively big void in the oral medicine and pathology literature and wish the book the success it so well deserves. It will be essential reading for all young practitioners, in particular, who will

step into a transformative world where dentists play a key role in delivering general as well as oral healthcare.

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**May 2022**

## Preface

Oral manifestations are a common feature of some sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). In such situations, the majority of patients have no knowledge of the possible link between underlying sexually acquired diseases and their presenting oral signs or symptoms. It is also likely that dental practitioners who treat these patients lack adequate knowledge of links between the underlying diseases and their oral presentation. It is important, therefore, that dental practitioners have adequate knowledge of the nature of STDs, their clinical presentations, progression, and impact upon oral and systemic health. They will need, in consultation with the patient's physician, to provide appropriate management of the oral condition.

The extant literature contains a number of case reports and review articles dealing with oral manifestations of some STDs but a single source that provides a comprehensive account of oral manifestations of a wide range of these diseases is not available. Textbooks on oral diseases and on oral medicine do not always deal with STDs in detail.

*Sexually Transmissible Oral Diseases* aims to fill this gap by providing oral healthcare providers with a single source designed to be useful in everyday practice. The main purpose of this book is to improve competence of dental practitioners in the recognition and management of oral manifestations of STDs. The book is structured to help dental and medical practitioners work closely, with a holistic approach, in caring for their patients.

This book has 18 chapters grouped in three sections. The first provides an overview including the global STD burden, its impact of on public health and the role of healthcare professionals in the prevention of STDs. Section 2 deals

with oral and genital mucosa with respect to their structure and associated microbiota, and highlights the impact of risky sexual behaviours such as oral sex on oral and general health. Section 3 provides detailed information on the oral manifestations of sexually transmissible diseases and those opportunistic infections and neoplasms commonly encountered in human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease. Though oropharyngeal infectious mononucleosis and oral candidosis are not primarily sexually transmitted, they are included in Section 3 because of their frequent co-presentation.

We believe this book is the first of its kind targeted at oral healthcare professionals worldwide. This multi-author work has contributors drawn from many parts of the world with expertise in infectious diseases, community medicine, sexual health, dermatology, oral pathology, microbiology and clinical oral medicine. Editor, section editors and chapter contributors hope that this publication will contribute to the missions of global organisations such as the FDI World Dental Federation, the World Health Organisation, Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, and the International Association of Dental Research in promoting health through oral health.

We believe that this publication is a timely addition to the world's dental and medical literature and will be of value to dentists, oral health therapists, dental hygienists, undergraduate and postgraduate dental students, medical practitioners, dermatologists and other healthcare providers.

May 2022

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I wish to acknowledge the unconditional support offered by my wife, Uma Prabhu, during the Covid-19 work from home period during which a significant part of this book was carried out.

May 2022

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