Angina bullosa haemorrhagica

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Angina bullosa haemorrhagica is a condition of blood blisters in the oropharynx that appear in the absence of any identifiable systemic disorder. The soft palate is a common site. Aetiology is unclear although trauma is thought to play a role. It is a benign condition. However, there are literature reports of acute airway obstruction caused by rapidly expanding lesions in the oropharynx. ¹

We present images of an otherwise well 67-year-old man who developed such a lesion while eating a meal. The lesion arose instantly and was asymptomatic. It ruptured after 24 hours to reveal an ulcerated base and resolved completely after 7 days. The patient had experienced multiple similar episodes in the past.

The differential diagnosis includes other oral vesiculobullous lesions (pemphigus, pemphigoid, bullous lichen planus) as well as blue-black lesions of the oral cavity (vascular malformation, malignant melanoma, amalgam tattoo). In light of the potential serious nature of these differentials, a thorough history, examination and where appropriate, biopsy, is essential.

Figure 1. Image of lesion on left soft palate taken at time of onset  

Figure 2. Appearance after 7 days

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