Cryosurgery: A novel technique for gingival depigmentation

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Gingival depigmentation is a periodontal plastic surgical procedure in which the gingival hyperpigmentation is removed or reduced by various techniques. Surgical scalpel, electrosurgery, lasers and other surgical techniques have been extensively used for the same. Cryosurgery has been tried with satisfactory results for gingival depigmentation. However, documented evidence in the literature is extremely limited. Hence, the present case report describes the clinical outcome of cryosurgery for treatment of excessive gingival pigmentation. This case report also highlights the maintenance of the esthetic outcome for 30 months. A 21-year-old South Indian dark-skinned female presented with dark brown to black gingival melanin pigmentation. The darkly pigmented gingiva had been present since birth. Cryosurgery using nitrous oxide and gas expansion cryoprobe cooled to -70°C was used for the depigmentation. The depigmentation was performed from maxillary right cuspid to maxillary left cuspid in a single appointment. The patient reported no adverse effects and no repigmentation of the treated areas for a period of 30 months. Cryosurgery is an easy procedure, with lack of bleeding and scar formation. The aesthetic outcome may be maintained for 30 months as shown in the present case. Cryosurgery can be considered a desirable treatment option for gingival depigmentation.

Biography
Shaeesta Khaleel Ahmed B is currently working as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Periodontics and Community Dental Sciences, College of Dentistry, King Khalid University, Abha, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. She has been working in the esteemed institution since 2015 till date, before which she was working as an Assistant Professor at Krishnadevaraya College of Dental Sciences and Hospital, Bangalore, India from 2010 to 2015. She has 13 publications to her credit in esteemed PubMed and Elsevier publications till date and is working on other research projects and forthcoming publications.

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