

# Black Hairy Tongue Following Chlorhexidine Mouthwash Use

Yaron Haviv<sup>1</sup>, Eli Michaeli<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Oral Medicine, Hebrew University – Hadassah School of Dental Medicine, Jerusalem, Israel. <sup>2</sup>Department of Oral medicine, Barzilai Medical Center, Ashkelon, Israel

## Description

A 53-year-old male, not smoking and no notable medical history presented with black discoloration of the dorsum of the tongue, which appeared 1 month ago. The patient had several teeth extracted and started using chlorhexidine mouth wash twice a day. Black hairy tongue (also termed lingua villosa nigra) is the name of a phenomena which is caused by black staining of hypertrophic papilla of the tongue which causes it to look as black hairy cover. This phenomena is harmless and can be connected to smoking, certain medication, hypo salivation and poor oral hygiene. Transient surface discoloration of the tongue and other soft tissues in the mouth can occur in also the absence of hairy tongue. Treatment in this case include cession of chlorhexidine mouth wash use and daily brushing/scrapping of the tongue with full recovery.

