



**Figure 2.** A-C, A computed tomography scan showed air streaks distributed from the Eustachian tube to the anterior mediastinum.

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## Pigmented Fungiform Lingual Papillae



**A**n otherwise healthy 8-year-old Latin-American boy presented at the dermatology clinic with multiple common warts on the hands. Physical examination also revealed multiple asymptomatic and sharply demarcated hyperpigmented pinhead papules on the dorsum and tip of the tongue (**Figure**). No other mucocutaneous lesions were observed. The parents did not present with oral mucosa or skin hyperpigmentation. Based on the characteristic clinical features, a diagnosis of pigmented fungiform lingual papillae (PFLP) was made. No treatment or follow-up visits were indicated.

PFLP is an asymptomatic, benign, nonprogressive condition characterized by dark-brown to black pinhead papules on the tip or dorsum of the tongue, correlated with hyperpigmentation confined to fungiform papillae. Pigmentation of the proximal nail folds and gums has also been reported.<sup>1</sup> PFLP is more frequent in blacks, Asians, and Hispanics and typically presents in young individuals during the second



**Figure.** Hyperpigmented pinhead papules on the dorsum and tip of the tongue.

and third decades of life, although it has also been reported in children. No association with malignancies has been reported, and no treatment is required.<sup>1</sup>

Differential diagnoses include pernicious anemia, Peutz-Jeghers syndrome, Addison disease, hemochromatosis, von Recklinghausen syndrome, amalgam tattoo, melanocytic nevus, melanoma, and Laugier-Hunziker syndrome. Dermoscopy of PFLP may reveal a cobblestone-like distribution and “rose petal” pattern, and can be very useful in ruling out other pigmentary disorders of the oral cavity.<sup>1–3</sup> PFLP should be considered in the differential diagnosis of oral mucosa hyperpigmentation, to avoid invasive and unnecessary procedures. ■

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