



Cheek retractor as an auxiliary tool to help perform a biopsy or mucoscopy procedure in the oral cavity

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CLINICAL CHALLENGE

Oral punch biopsy specimens are difficult to obtain from lesions that are located deep in the buccal mucosa.

SOLUTION

Cheek retractors (Fig 1, A) are used to retract the lips, labial and buccal mucosa from the field of view. This allows the maximum amount of light to enter the oral cavity, thereby improving visibility. Cheek retractors are available in clear plastic or metal and are either single- or double-ended. Double-ended retractors provide both a small and large curvature. This shape allows adaptability to a variety of mouth sizes.¹ Selection is a matter of preference; however, plastic retractors are better for ease of photography. Oral biopsy procedures can be performed easily (Fig 1, B) using cheek retractors if the lesion is located deeper, and cheek retractors also increase the ease of intralesional injections. Mucoscopy² can be performed with ease using a handheld dermoscope or a videodermoscope.

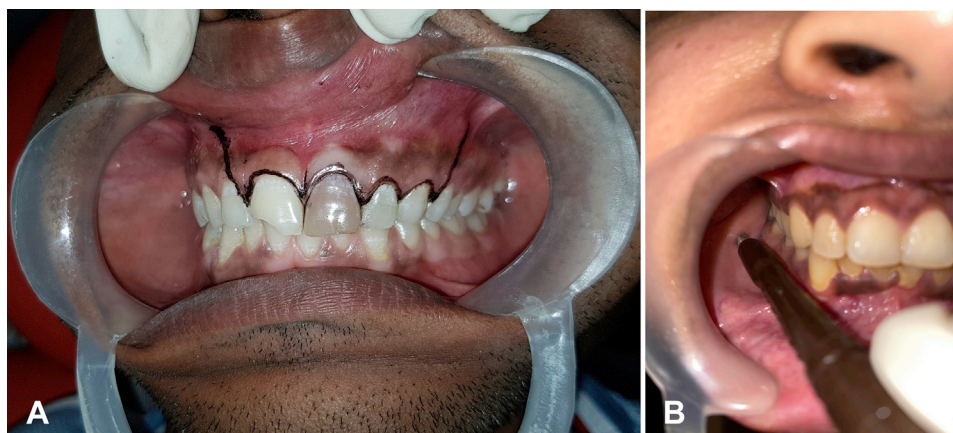


Fig 1. **A**, Oral cavity view after application of a cheek retractor. **B**, Oral punch biopsy procedures can be performed with ease after application of a cheek retractor.

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