

Koplik's spots

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Figure 1: Koplik's spots of the oral cavity

Koplik's spots are pathognomonic features of measles in its prodromal phase. They are named after American pediatrician Dr. Henry Koplik, who first described them in 1896. They appear 2–3 days before the onset of a measles rash as small, bluish-white, slightly elevated papules on erythematous bases on the buccal mucosa, usually opposite the first and second lower molar teeth. Because of their characteristic appearance, they are described as “grains of salt on a reddish background.” They may spread to involve other parts of the buccal cavity, pharynx, and soft palate. Occasionally, they occur on the conjunctiva and the vaginal and gastrointestinal mucosae. The white color of the spots may result from the destruction of cells of the glandular epithelium. They persist for 12 hours to 4 days and fade on the rash appearance. When the skin rash appears and progresses, the spots lose their characteristic

appearance, and after several days, the mucosa returns to its normal appearance [1,2].

A fifteen-year-old child presented with high fever, tiredness, conjunctival congestion, and upper respiratory tract symptoms persisting for the past two days. On examination of the mouth, there were multiple, white spots on erythematous bases facing the upper and lower molar teeth (Fig. 1). The patient was diagnosed with a case of measles and admitted to the hospital for further investigations and treatment.

Consent

The examination of the patient was conducted according to the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki.

The authors certify that they have obtained all appropriate patient consent forms, in which the patients gave their consent for images and other clinical information to be included in the journal. The patients understand that their names and initials will not be published and due effort will be made to conceal their identity, but that anonymity cannot be guaranteed.

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Source of Support: This article has no funding source.

Conflict of Interest: The authors have no conflict of interest to declare.

How to cite this article: Mancy A. Koplik's spots. *Our Dermatol Online*. 2023;14(4):448.

Submission: 03.06.2023; **Acceptance:** 07.07.2023

DOI: 10.7241/ourd.20234.23