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Sent: 25 October 2022 12:19
To: 'Stephen Hancocks' <Stephen.Hancocks@bda.org>
Cc: Fedele, Stefano <s.fedele@ucl.ac.uk>
Subject: RE: Letter to Editor

Stephen

The recent article by Ali et al (BDJ 2022; 233: 564–568) is relevant to present and future oral health care as the plethora of drugs available to prevent and/or treat disease is ever increasing and indeed, it is hoped, will continue.

All articles published in journals must be accurate, up-to-date and provide readers with information that they may be able to act upon. The article of Ali and co-workers does not meet such expectations. There are numerous inaccuracies, that include, amongst others, the incorrect use of “Wegener’s granulomatosis”, inclusion of *Neisseria Gonorrhoeae* but exclusion of *Treponema pallidum*, a failure to mention that it’s Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma that is much more likely in the mouth than all lymphomas, that black hairy tongue is not just mucosal discolouration and that MRONJ does not occur only after dental procedures. The authors fail to detail that the features of the ulceration can often easily point to a diagnosis and there is an inconsistent use of generic versus trade names of drugs.

The section on the management of oral ulceration is rather bereft of information that will be helpful to the majority of readers of the journal – general dental practitioners. For example, not all the cited preparations are readily available in the UK (triamcinolone in sodium carboxymethylcellulose paste) or indeed many other countries, the evidence that some of them are effective is lacking (e.g. topical tetracyclines) and some are probably totally impractical (low energy laser). Many of the agents cited as likely causes of drug-induced oral disease are prescribed by specialists rather than generalists hence the communication should be with the former – not the latter.

Authors (and perhaps reviewers) should consider what an article is meant to be achieving – a strong accurate message that, when relevant, will enhance the knowledge and skills of the reader.

Yours sincerely

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