

**CASE 38-1**

A 67-year-old man with a history of smokeless tobacco use presents with a white maculopapular lesion on the mandibular gingiva.



**What is the one mostly likely diagnosis?**

- (A) Papilloma
- (B) Lichen planus
- (C) Cicatricial pemphigoid
- (D) Multifocal epithelial hyperplasia
- (E) Leukoplakia

The correct answer is (E), leukoplakia.

Leukoplakia typically presents as a nonremovable white plaque and is more frequently seen in tobacco users.

Papilloma is a benign tumor that has a warty appearance and it is caused by human papillomavirus (HPV). The reticular form of oral lichen planus presents in the mouth with coalescing white papules that form striations (Wickham striae). The most common location is the buccal mucosa. Multifocal epithelial hyperplasia is caused by HPV types 13 and 32 and it is characterized by multiple papules distributed throughout the mouth.