

CASE 38-2

A 28-year-old woman presents with this painless lesion on the tongue of a few years duration.



What is the most likely diagnosis?

- (A) Papilloma
- (B) Fibroma
- (C) Intramucosal nevus
- (D) Multifocal epithelial hyperplasia
- (E) Mucocele

The correct answer is (B), fibroma.

A fibroma is a common oral lesion presenting as a smooth dome-shaped nodule or polyp.

Papillomas are characterized by finger-like projections or a corrugated cauliflower-like surface. Intramucosal nevi are rare and in most cases pigmented. Multifocal epithelial hyperplasia can present on the tongue as multiple papules. Mucocele is a fluid-filled lesion and, when presenting on the tongue, occurs on the ventral surface and less frequently on the lateral surface.