

Health and appearance of gingiva are important parts of a smile [1]. Melanin, carotene, reduced haemoglobin and oxy-haemoglobin are the prime pigments contributing to the normal color of the oral mucosa [4]. Melanin, a non-hemoglobin-derived brown pigment, is the most common of the endogenous pigments and is produced by melanocytes present in the basal and suprabasal cell layers of the epithelium [5]. Gingival pigmentation is presented as a diffuse deep purplish discoloration or as irregularly shaped brown and light brown or black patches, striae or strands. The gingival color depends primarily upon the number and size of vasculature, epithelial thickness, degree of keratinization and pigments within the gingival epithelium.