



SAMPLING ORAL LESIONS TO DETERMINE A DEFINITIVE DIAGNOSIS: Techniques, Procedures, Approaches, & Applications

DRS. SAMSON NG and CHARLES SHULER

The recognition of an unanticipated change in the appearance of the oral mucosa initiates a process to determine a definitive diagnosis. When a change in the mucosa persists for longer than 14 days a biopsy to sample the tissue may be the most appropriate next step. The decision that a biopsy is necessary is made by the patient's dentist. Typically in general dental practice performing biopsies may be an infrequent event however the skills and equipment necessary to perform a biopsy are included in the armamentarium of a dental office. Your patient's best interests will be served by the determination of a definitive diagnosis through a histopathologic examination of a sample obtained from the site of the mucosal change. Due to the infrequent need to biopsy mucosal sites in a general dental practice there may be some hesitancy to perform this necessary procedure. This course is organized to discuss the decision-making linked to performing a biopsy, the steps in the actual procedure and the processes that occur after the sample is obtained and submitted for a histopathologic examination.

This course will include both didactic and hands-on components associated with the biopsy of oral mucosal lesions. The didactic section will discuss the decision-making process that leads to the need for a soft tissue biopsy. The second section of the course will be hands-on soft tissue sampling simulating an actual biopsy. The hands-on portion will include performing biopsy procedures on oral soft tissues from fresh animal tongues, these hands-on procedures will include multiple variations of approaches for sampling mucosal tissue. Handling of the mucosal sample will follow the same steps as would be used with a patient biopsy. All steps from the decision to perform a biopsy, submission of the sample and interpretation of the histopathology result will be discussed.

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

- Recognize changes in oral soft tissues that require sampling to achieve a definitive diagnosis by histopathology
- Practice the techniques of obtaining a mucosal sample from an oral lesion
- Learn the steps in the process of submitting a biopsy sample to a histopathology laboratory



SAMSON NG, BSC (PHARM), DMD, MSC, FRCD(C), FDSRCS, DIP ABOM, DIP ABOMP is a Canadian and American Board certified oral medicine specialist and oral & maxillofacial pathologist. He is currently appointed as clinical associate professor at the University of British Columbia, and staff at the Department of Dentistry, and research clinician at the Department of Otolaryngology of the Vancouver General Hospital. Dr. Ng also operates a private practice which provides comprehensive oral medicine and pathology consultations, with a special interest in oral mucosal, temporomandibular joint diseases, and AI topographic Imaging & Diagnostics.



CHARLES SHULER, BSC, DMD, PHD was the Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry of the University of British Columbia for ten years. He is now a professor of oral pathology in the Department of Oral Biological and Medical Sciences at UBC Dentistry and teaching oral pathology/medicine. Prior to being appointed at UBC he was a faculty member at the University of Southern California for 18 years. At USC he served as the Director of the University of Southern California Center for Craniofacial Molecular Biology holding an endowed chair position as the George and Mary Lou Boone Chair Professor of Craniofacial Molecular Biology. He also served as the Director of the Graduate Program in Craniofacial Biology and the Associate Dean for Student and Academic Affairs at the USC School of Dentistry. Dr. Shuler received his B.S. in Biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin, his D.M.D. from Harvard School of Dental Medicine, his

Ph.D. in Pathology from the University of Chicago and his Oral Pathology education at the University of Minnesota and the Royal Dental College Copenhagen Denmark. He has been active in assessing and managing clinical oral pathology patients with soft and hard tissue lesions. He has had an active research program funded by national granting agencies that focused on evaluating the molecular regulation of the soft and hard tissues of the secondary palate to better understand the etiology of craniofacial birth defects and pathologic

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**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 8, 2025**

TUITION:

(LECTURE + WORKSHOP):

	until Oct 3	after Oct 3
Dentists	\$850	\$925

6 hours of instruction

Includes handouts, continental breakfast, lunch, and supplies for hands-on workshop

Please bring your loupes for the hands-on workshop.

(LECTURE ONLY):

	until Oct 3	after Oct 3
Dentists	\$275	\$325
Allied Dental Professionals	\$200	\$225

3 hours of instruction

Includes handouts and continental breakfast

TIMES:

Registration Begins:	8:30 AM
Lecture Begins:	9:00 AM
Lunch:	12:00 PM
Workshop Begins:	12:30 PM
Workshop Ends:	3:30 PM

LOCATION:

Faculty of Dentistry,
The University of British Columbia
Vancouver, BC

REGISTER:

dentistry.ubc.ca/cde

CONTACT

P: 604.822.6156

E: cde@dentistry.ubc.ca