

## **Pesticide Laden Food and Oral Health Issues- Is the Connection being Overlooked?**

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Mankind has grown leaps and bounds taking the full advantage of science and technology, in almost all spheres of life. The growth has been tremendous, making the humans much more resourceful and powerful. While most of this growth has brought massive positive effects in a man's daily life, the negative aspects coming along cannot be overlooked.

One of such not so favorable uses of science, which humans are using in the most undisciplined manner is the utilization of pesticides. The pesticides, once developed for limited use, in special circumstances, are now used with such free hand in several parts of the world that it seems as if no vegetable or fruit can be grown without their usage. This is the sad but actual position statement when it comes to use of pesticides in agriculture industry.

It is a well-known fact that pesticide laden food has deleterious effect on human health in several ways. The ill effects can be acute or chronic, depending on the exposure. However, as a consumer, intake of pesticide laden food over a long period of time may lead to several chronic diseases including carcinomas and neurological disorders.

While much has been discussed about the effect of these harmful chemicals on the human body in general, its direct effect on oral cavity, when the pesticide laden food comes in contact with gingival tissues, oral mucous membrane, tongue etc. has been overlooked. This sounds slight ironic for the fact that it's the oral cavity tissues, which come in primary contact with the pesticide laden food materials but still their immediate and delayed effects on the oral tissues have not been investigated to depth.

It is a well-established fact that oral cavity soft tissue is one of the most sensitive soft tissues of the human body and even the slightest of harmful chemicals coming in their contact may lead to serious consequences. Having said that, it is worth remembering that oral cavity has a rich vascular supply and the possibility of pesticides being directly absorbed into the vascular system via this rich supply cannot be negated.

It is often said, "Mouth is the mirror of body". With this phrase in mind and understanding its deep meaning, it is quite evident that the direct effects of pesticide laden food on the oral cavity soft tissues of people consuming such adulterated food cannot be overlooked.

The need of the hour is to evaluate the direct harmful effects of these chemicals on the soft tissues of oral cavity so as to come up with more prudent information and unveil the hidden dreadful facts related to the same.

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