Oral shingles pose diagnostic challenges among dentists because the prodromal stage of the disease can precede an emergence of mucosal or dermatological manifestations possibly by several days. Toothache, which the patient experienced at the beginning, could be an initial presentation of oral shingles in this case. Actually, previous cases referred to the potential of herpes zoster reactivation mimicking odontogenic pain. Delay in the appropriate treatment as a direct consequence of delayed diagnosis could be responsible for the development of postherpetic neuralgia as a sequela. This case highlights the importance of prudent intraoral examination and watchful waiting in diagnosing oral shingles.

**Learning points**

- Reactivation of herpes zoster involving the trigeminal nerve may mimic odontogenic pain during the prodromal stage of the disease.
- Careful intraoral inspection can lead to an early diagnosis of oral shingles.

**REFERENCES**