

Management of Dentigerous Cyst in a Pediatric Patient, A Case Report A Question of Timeliness



INTRODUCTION

Dentigerous cysts (DC), also known as follicular cysts, are benign odontogenic cysts that typically arise from developmental factors. DCs appear on imaging as a distinct radiolucency around the crown of an unerupted or impacted tooth, resulting from changes in the reduced enamel epithelium enclosing the tooth crown. Primarily occurring in the mandible (70% of cases), DCs are generally asymptomatic, with patients often seeking attention due to delayed tooth eruption or facial swelling. DCs might remain unnoticed until incidentally found.

Patient Information

Two-parent household (father/mother) and younger sibling
Social and Dental History: Mother, father, and children Spanish speaking (must use translator)
No dental home; Brushes 1x per day unsupervised AM; irregular dental visits
Medical History: WNL, Medications: None, Allergies: NKDA; Diet: in between meal snacking and carbonated drinks

Examination

EOE: WNL
TMJ Evaluation: WNL
OH/Gauze Test: visible plaque/debris
Gingival Diagnosis: healthy gingiva
Occlusion: Anterior cross-bite: (8,9,24,25), moderate crowding, Angle class: 3
OB: 10%, OJ: 1mm, 3:O, 4: Rotated
Caries and restorations: 5-O (approximate to pulp), 14:O composite, 19: O occlusal composite, 30: O composite, 6/22: impacted

Consults

Orthodontic/ Oral Surgery/ Oral Pathology

Differential Diagnosis

Dentigerous Cyst
Odontogenic Keratocyst (OKC)
Unicystic Ameloblastoma
Adenomatoid Odontogenic Tumor

Management Scenarios

Actual Scenario:

- Untimely visits and Late management
- Predictable and Preventable Costs
- Increase responsibility of payer
- Increase complexity of care (Ortho)

Desired Scenario:

- Timely visits
- Secondary Prevention
- Early care
- Less invasive care
- Decrease costs
- Health equity at home
- More predictable outcomes

Improving Care Management

This common oral health scenario highlights the need for timely engagement of consumers and healthcare practitioners. Payers utilizing technology are in the best position to drive this goal – a partnership of consumers and healthcare practitioners

Radiograph: 11 yo F Date: 8/2022

