

Cementifying-Ossifying Fibroma Of The Maxilla: A Case Report

D Tamiolakis, V Thomaidis, I Tsamis, M Lambropoulou, G Alexiadis, K Seretis, N Papadopoulos

Citation

D Tamiolakis, V Thomaidis, I Tsamis, M Lambropoulou, G Alexiadis, K Seretis, N Papadopoulos. *Cementifying-Ossifying Fibroma Of The Maxilla: A Case Report*. The Internet Journal of Dental Science. 2004 Volume 2 Number 2.

Abstract

OBJECTIVE: Cementoossifying fibroma of the maxilla is an uncommon tumor. Lesions with fibrous and osseous components include fibrous dysplasia (FD), ossifying fibroma (OF), cementoossifying fibroma (COF), and cementifying fibroma (CF). Fibro-osseous lesions other than FD seem to arise from the periodontal membrane.

CASE: We present a clinical case of a young woman referred for evaluation of a mass in the right cheek. The mass had first appeared 4 years ago and was growing larger onwards. She was treated with surgical resection via a Weber-Fergusson approach.

RESULTS: The physical examination revealed a maxillary enlargement and an intraoral lesion which had almost effaced the jugogingival groove. The teeth were agile and displaced. Imaging studies demonstrated a soft tissue mass in the superior right maxilla which invaded the right maxillary sinus. The differential diagnosis included fibrous dysplasia, osteoid osteoma, osteoblastoma, chronic sclerosing osteomyelitis, ameloblastoma, squamous cell carcinoma of the maxillary sinus, calcifying epithelial odontogenic tumor (Pindborg tumor) and calcifying odontogenic cyst (Gorlin cyst). Histology established a cementoossifying fibroma.

DISCUSSION: In our case of cementoossifying fibroma, the differential diagnosis based on clinical manifestations and conventional radiographic studies, was controversial. Histologic interpretation was critical, and led to correct treatment.

INTRODUCTION

Cementoossifying fibroma (COF) is considered a benign osseous tumor, very closely related to other lesions such as fibrous dysplasia, cementifying periapical dysplasia or cemento-osseous florid dysplasia, however forming its own entity according to the 1992 classification of the WHO (1). It is a bony tumor of the maxillas of possible odontogenic origin. It is believed to derive from the cells of the periodontal ligament (2,3,4). This is a layer of fibrous connective tissue surrounding the roots. It contains multipotential cells capable of forming cementum, lamellar bone and fibrous tissue. Under pathological conditions neoplasms containing any or all of the components may be produced (5). More aggressive lesions usually involve the maxillary antrum where extensive growth is unimpeded by anatomic obstacles. Because all cementum containing lesions are theoretically of periodontal membrane origin, maxillary

sinus spread after origin from an upper premolar or molar tooth is a distinct possibility (6). They manifest themselves as slow-growing, asymptomatic, intraosseous masses, most frequent in females between 35 and 40 (7,8). Differential diagnosis should be performed, preferably with other fibro-osseous lesions of the maxilla such as fibrous dysplasia or osseous-cementifying dysplasia (5,6). Although central COFs of the mandible are common, central COFs of the maxillary sinus are not; a few have been reported in literature (9).

CASE REPORT

A 36 year old woman was referred for evaluation of a mass in the right cheek (fig 1). The patient stated that the mass had first appeared 4 years ago and was slightly becoming larger ever since.

Figure 1

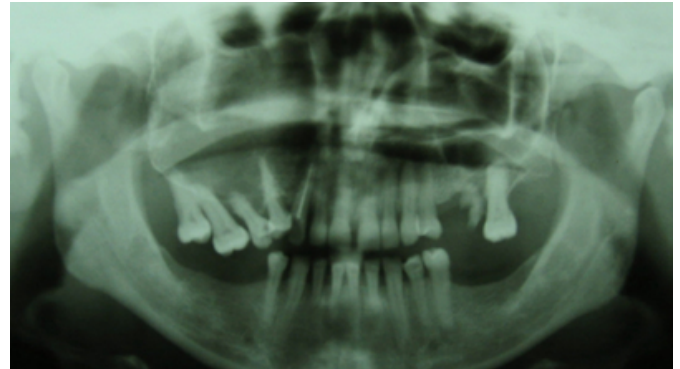
Figure 1: A 36 aged female with a right maxillary enlargement.



The host had no complaint of pain, visual field disturbances, dysphagia or dyspnea. Her past medical history was uninteresting. The physical examination revealed a maxillary enlargement and an intraoral lesion which had almost effaced the jugogingival groove. The teeth were agile and displaced. Oral mucosa was normal. Imaging studies demonstrated a soft tissue mass in the superior right maxilla with expansile remodeling of bone and focal loss of cortical bone. The mass invaded the maxillary sinus. It was well-defined and showed radiolucent and radio-opaque features (fig.2).

Figure 2

Figure 2: Panoramic radiograph shows a well-defined lesion with radiolucent and radio-opaque foci.



A CT scan showed a mixed density mass with diffuse scattered calcification involving the maxillary alveolar ridge, occupying and expanding the right maxillary sinus. A tissue sample was obtained for histopathological study and showed a fibrous connective tissue with bone trabeculae and small, rounded, calcified foci that grouped into lobulated masses (fig 3).A diagnosis of COF was rendered, and the patient underwent surgical resection via a Weber-Fergusson approach (fig 4).

Figure 3

Figure 3: Cemental tissue in the form of spherical masses and curvilinear lobules in a fibrous stroma.

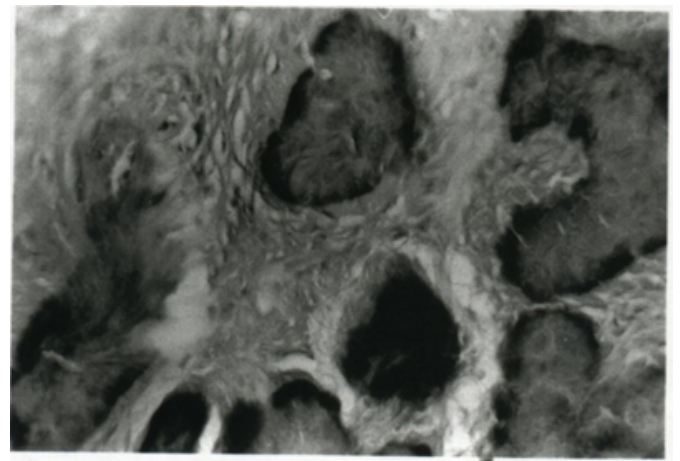
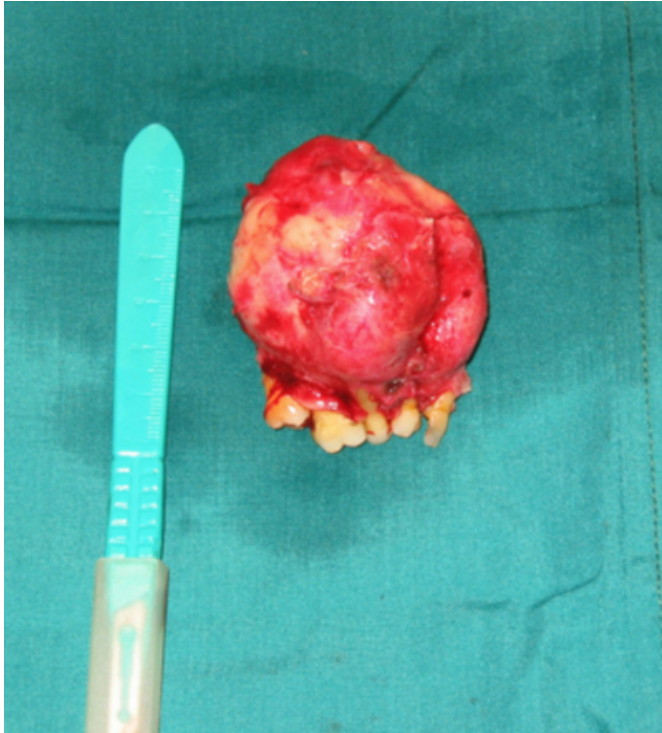


Figure 4

Figure 4: The surgical specimen (gross appearance).



DISCUSSION

Central cementoossifying fibromas are a distinct form of benign fibroosseous lesions of the mandible and maxilla. They are thought to arise from the periodontal ligament and are composed of varying amounts of cementum, bone, and fibrous tissue. Cementum is the mineralized connective tissue that covers the root of the tooth. The hybrid name central cementoossifying fibroma is used because there is a spectrum of fibroosseous lesions that arise from the periodontal ligament, ranging from those with only deposition of cementum to those with only deposition of bone (10). Central cementoossifying fibromas occur more frequently in women than in men. They arise in the mandible in 62% to 89% of patients, 77% occurring in the premolar region. Most are diagnosed between 20 and 40 years of age (10). When this tumor arises in children, it has been named the juvenile aggressive cementoossifying fibroma, which presents at an earlier age and is more aggressive clinically and more vascular at pathologic exam (10). Central cementoossifying fibromas are asymptomatic until they cause expansion. Thus, they are generally not diagnosed until the tumor has had time to produce calcifications. Although central cementoossifying fibromas of the mandible are common, central cementoossifying fibromas of the maxillary sinus are unusual tumors. Central cementoossifying fibromas are typically well-defined,

solitary radiolucencies with scattered radiopaque foci. They maintain a spherical shape, expand the surrounding cortical bone without cortical perforation, and may cause tooth divergence.

Large tumors may involve the nasal septum, orbital floor, and infraorbital foramen. The tumor extent guides surgical therapy. Maxillary central cementoossifying fibromas are large at the time of presentation, indicating the capacity of the tumor to expand freely within the maxillary sinus. Pathologic examination of the central cementoossifying fibroma shows a proliferation of irregularly shaped calcifications within a hypercellular fibrous connective tissue stroma. The calcifications are extremely variable in appearance and represent various stages of bone and cementum deposition. Histologic differentiation between osteoid and cementum is difficult. In some cases, most of the calcified fragments are immature cementum, with basophilic coloration on hematoxylin and eosin–stained sections. These tumors have been named central cementifying fibroma. In other cases, the calcified fragments are osteoid, with typical eosinophilic coloration on hematoxylin and eosin–stained sections. These tumors have been named central ossifying fibromas. However, central ossifying fibromas also can be basophilic, causing difficulties with differentiating from central cementifying fibromas. Most pathologists feel that central cementifying fibromas and central ossifying fibromas arise from the same progenitor cell but produce variable amounts of bone and cementum within any one lesion. The hybrid term central cementoossifying fibroma has evolved to indicate the likely presence of both types of tissue within the same lesion because of the difficulty in being able to distinguish reliably immature bone from immature cementum and because of the presence of both of these substances in many of the lesions.

Thus, central cementoossifying fibroma is the most accurate histologic term, but it can be interchanged with either central ossifying fibroma or central cementifying fibroma. There is no apparent clinical or radiologic difference between the central cementifying fibroma or central ossifying fibroma, so the hybrid central cementoossifying fibroma works well for radiology, too (10). Maxillary central cemento-ossifying fibromas tend to display a greater degree of immaturity than that seen in mandibular lesions, but there is no reliable pattern useful to distinguish between maxillary and mandibular lesions. There is a correlation between the amount of calcification seen in the surgical specimen and that seen on the CT. The pathologic differences between

central cementoossifying fibroma and fibrous dysplasia are few and the diagnosis must be made in light of the radiographic findings (10).

The differential diagnosis includes other lesions that contain radiopacities within a well-defined radiolucent mass: chondrosarcoma or osteosarcoma, fibrous dysplasia, odontogenic cysts, squamous cell carcinomas, calcifying odontogenic cysts (Gorlin cysts), and calcifying epithelial odontogenic tumors (Pindborg tumors). The well-defined border of the central cementoossifying fibroma helps differentiate it from the aggressive sarcomas and carcinomas. Fibrous dysplasia has a characteristic “ground glass” appearance not seen in the central cementoossifying fibroma. The radiologic differentiation of central cementoossifying fibroma from Gorlin cysts and Pindborg tumors is difficult; the final diagnosis is based on histologic appearance. Pindborg tumors have a high association with impacted teeth (10).

The recommended treatment of the central cementoossifying fibroma is excision. The entire tumor should be removed including involved regions of the orbital floor and maxillary sinus walls. Central cementoossifying fibromas usually “shell out” easily at surgery, but maxillary central cementoossifying fibromas are more difficult to remove completely than mandibular central cementoossifying fibromas. This may be attributable to the difference in bone character between the mandible and maxilla and to the available space for expansion in the maxillary sinus. Recurrence has been reported in as many as 28% of patients with mandibular central cementoossifying fibromas. The recurrence rate of maxillary central cementoossifying fibromas is unknown, but it is likely to be higher because of the greater difficulty of their surgical removal and larger size at the time of presentation (10, 11).

CORRESPONDENCE TO

Papadopoulos Nikolas

Assoc. Professor In Histology Embryology

Democritus University Of Thrace,

Faculty Of Medicine,

Dragana, 68100, Alexandroupolis, Thrace, Greece

Telephone And Fax Number: 00302551039889

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Author Information

D. Tamiolakis

Department of Cytology, Regional Hospital of Chania

V. Thomaidis

Department of Maxillofacial Surgery, University Hospital of Alexandroupolis

I. Tsamis

Department of Maxillofacial Surgery, University Hospital of Alexandroupolis

M. Lambropoulou

Department of Histology-Embryology, Faculty of Medicine, Democritus University of Thrace

G. Alexiadis

Diagnostic Radiology Centre of Alexandroupolis

K. Seretis

Department of Maxillofacial Surgery, University Hospital of Alexandroupolis

N. Papadopoulos

Department of Histology-Embryology, Faculty of Medicine, Democritus University of Thrace