Journal of Odontology

OPEN ACCESS Freely available online

Opinion Article

Ameloblastoma: A Comprehensive Overview of the Rare Jaw Tumor

Hazim Bohimbo*

Department of Oral Surgery, Al-Mustansiriyah University, Baghdad, Iraq

DESCRIPTION

Ameloblastoma is a rare and locally invasive tumor that affects the jawbones, specifically the mandible (lower jaw) and the maxilla (upper jaw). It is derived from the cells that form tooth enamel, known as ameloblasts, hence the name ameloblastoma.

Causes

The exact cause of ameloblastoma is still unknown. However, analysis suggests that it arises from remnants of odontogenic epithelium (the cells that form teeth) that persist in the jawbones. There is also evidence to suggest that genetic mutations and abnormalities may play a role in the development of ameloblastoma, although the specific genes involved have not yet been identified.

Symptoms

Ameloblastoma often presents with a variety of symptoms, although some cases may be asymptomatic and discovered incidentally during routine dental or radiographic examinations. The most common signs and symptoms of ameloblastoma include:

Swelling: The presence of a painless swelling in the jaw is a typical indicator of ameloblastoma. The swelling may be gradual in growth and often leads to facial asymmetry.

Discomfort or pain: In some cases, ameloblastoma may cause pain or discomfort, especially when the tumor enlarges and compresses surrounding structures.

Loose teeth: As the tumor grows, it can cause the displacement or loosening of adjacent teeth.

Jaw expansion: Ameloblastoma can result in the expansion of the jawbone, leading to changes in the shape and appearance of the face.

Difficulty chewing or speaking: Large ameloblastomas can interfere with proper jaw movement, causing difficulties in chewing or speaking.

Oral ulcers or infections: In rare instances, ameloblastoma may become infected, leading to the development of oral ulcers, abscesses, or drainage of pus.

Diagnosis

Diagnosing ameloblastoma typically involves a combination of clinical examination, radiographic imaging, and histopathological analysis. A comprehensive approach is necessary to differentiate ameloblastoma from other jaw tumors or cysts.

Clinical examination: A dentist or oral surgeon will assess the patient's medical and dental history, perform a physical examination, and evaluate any symptoms present.

Radiographic imaging: X-rays, panoramic radiographs, or Cone-Beam Computed Tomography (CBCT) scans are commonly used to visualize the extent, location, and characteristics of the tumor. These imaging techniques help determine the size, shape, and relationship of the ameloblastoma with the surrounding structures.

Histopathological analysis: The gold standard for diagnosis involves obtaining a tissue sample through an incisional or excisional biopsy. The tissue sample is sent to a pathologist who examines it under a microscope to confirm the presence of ameloblastoma and determine its specific type (e.g., conventional, unicystic, or desmoplastic).

Treatment

The treatment of ameloblastoma depends on various factors, including the size, location, and type of the tumor, as well as the age and overall health of the patient. The primary treatment modalities for ameloblastoma include:

Surgical excision: The most common approach is surgical removal of the tumor, along with a margin of healthy tissue to reduce the risk of recurrence. The extent of the surgery depends on the size and location of the tumor, and reconstructive procedures may be necessary to restore form and function after removal.

Correspondence to: Hazim Bohimbo, Department of Oral Surgery, Al-Mustansiriyah University, Baghdad, Iraq, E-mail:bohim@gmail.com

Received: 16-Jun-2023, Manuscript No. JOY-23-25553; **Editor assigned:** 19-Jun-2023, PreQC No: JOY-23-25553 (PQ); **Reviewed:** 04-Jul-2023, QC No. JOY-23-25553; **Revised:** 11-Jul-2023, Manuscript No: JOY-23-25553 (R); **Published:** 18-Jul-2023, DOI: 10.35248/JOY.23.7.670

Citation: Bohimbo H (2023) Ameloblastoma: A Comprehensive Overview of the Rare Jaw Tumor. J Odontol. 7:670.

Jaw reconstruction: In cases where a significant portion of the jaw is affected or removed, reconstructive surgery may be required to restore facial aesthetics and function. This can involve the use of bone grafts, synthetic materials, or surgical techniques such as distraction osteogenesis.

Follow-up monitoring: Regular follow-up visits and imaging studies are essential to monitor for any signs of recurrence or development of new tumors. Long-term surveillance is necessary due to the potential for ameloblastoma to recur, even after seemingly successful treatment.

It is important to note that ameloblastoma is considered a benign tumor, but it is locally aggressive, meaning it can grow and invade nearby tissues. If left untreated or incompletely excised, ameloblastoma can cause significant destruction and recurrence.

Prognosis

The prognosis for ameloblastoma depends on several factors, including the type, location, and stage of the tumor, as well as the adequacy of the surgical treatment. Generally, the overall prognosis is good, especially for cases treated with complete surgical removal and appropriate follow-up care.

Recurrence rates for ameloblastoma vary depending on the subtype, with conventional ameloblastomas having higher recurrence rates compared to unicystic ameloblastomas. Regular monitoring and follow-up visits are crucial to detect any signs of recurrence early on.

Ameloblastoma is a rare tumor that originates from the cells responsible for enamel formation in the jawbones. While the exact cause remains unknown, early diagnosis and appropriate treatment are essential to manage this locally aggressive tumor effectively.

With advancements in surgical techniques and reconstruction, the prognosis for ameloblastoma has significantly improved, offering patients the opportunity for successful treatment and restoration of oral health and aesthetics.