

An Osteoma Embedding an Ectopic Wisdom Tooth within the Maxillary Sinus

A Rare Occurrence

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ABSTRACT

Osteomas are frequently reported in the maxillofacial region, with much lower incidences in the maxillary and sphenoid sinuses. An unerupted third molar within the maxillary sinus coexisting with a maxillary sinus osteoma is an extremely rare pathologic finding. Such cases can be managed endoscopically or intraorally through a Caldwell-Luc approach. The following case report deals with a patient who presented with an uncommon pathological finding: an osteoma embedding an ectopic tooth within the maxillary sinus.

Osteomas are benign bony tumors consisting of mature cancellous and cortical bone.^[1,2] They are found exclusively in the craniofacial and maxillofacial regions, most commonly in the paranasal sinuses and less commonly on the surfaces of bones such as the cranium and mandible.^[3]

When found in the paranasal sinuses, the frontal and ethmoid sinuses are most commonly involved, with a 60% to 70% and 20% to 30% incidence, respectively.^[4] On the other hand,

osteomas involving the maxillary sinus occur less than 5% of the time, and diagnosis is usually made incidentally on radiographic findings, as most patients are asymptomatic.^[4] Ectopic eruption of a third molar within the maxillary sinus co-existing with an osteoma is a rare occurrence.^[2]

The following case report deals with a patient who presented with an uncommon pathological finding: an osteoma embedding an ectopic tooth within the maxillary sinus.

Case Report

A 24-year-old female presented to the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Clinic complaining of persistent pain, intraoral odor and rhinorrhea. She presented with no facial asymmetry and had no vestibular fullness. Mild tenderness was noted in the upper left maxilla, with mild intraoral purulence. She was otherwise healthy, with no underlying medical concerns.

The panoramic film showed a well-defined radiopacity in the maxillary sinus associated with an unerupted third molar (Figure 1). A cone beam computer tomography (CBCT) image showed an ectopically positioned wisdom tooth within the maxillary sinus surrounded peripherally by a radiopaque rim (Figures 2-5). The entire left maxillary sinus was fluid-filled, attributing to the patient developing sinusitis, rhinorrhea and foul intraoral odor. She