

Interesting case record of a Tooth inside nasal cavity

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Abstract:

I am presenting an interesting case report of an ectopic eruption of teeth into left nasal cavity. Discussion is focussed on clinical, radiological presentation, probable etiology, diagnosis, management and complications. Tooth inside nasal cavity is a rare form of supernumerary teeth which can be identified by performing CT scan.

Case Report:

35 years old female patient came to otolaryngology OPD with left sided nasal obstruction of one year duration and bleeding from the same side of 6 months duration. Nasal examination revealed whitish mass occupying the floor of left nasal cavity surrounded by granulation tissue. Probing revealed a gritty sensation. Granulation tissue started to bleed on probing. Her intraoral dentition was normal. She gave no previous history of maxillo facial trauma / surgery in that area.

CT scan nose and paranasal sinuses coronal view revealed whitish mass located in the floor of the nasal cavity between the inferior turbinate and nasal septum. Its attenuation value was equal to that of teeth.



Image 1: Coronal CT nose and paranasal sinuses showing whitish mass in the floor of the left nasal cavity between inferior turbinate and nasal septum.

Management:

The mass was removed endoscopically. The mass was hard and resembled a tooth.

Histopathological study:

Revealed it to be a tooth composed of dentin and covered by a layer of poorly organized enamel.



Image II showing the supernumerary teeth after removal

Discussion:

The incidence of supernumerary teeth affects roughly less than 1% of population. (1). The common area involved happens to be upper incisor which is also known as Mesiodens. In majority of cases these supernumerary teeth don't cause any problems. On rare occasions these teeth may cause symptoms like facial pain, nasal obstruction, headache, foul smelling nasal discharge, external deformities involving the nose and nasolacrimal duct obstruction.

Theories of supernumerary teeth development:

1. Supernumerary teeth may develop from the third tooth bed that arises from dental lamina near the permanent teeth bed or from splitting of permanent tooth bed itself. (1)
2. This theory suggests that supernumerary teeth could be a reversion to the dentition of extinct primates which had three pairs of incisors. (1)
3. Persistence of deciduous teeth / crowded dentition due to dense bone in the upper jaw may cause supernumerary teeth to develop.
4. Displacement of teeth due to trauma / cyst may cause supernumerary teeth / ectopic teeth formation. (1)

Role of CT scan in these patients is to identify the presence or absence of tooth socket in the floor of the nasal cavity. If tooth cavity is present then it will make endoscopic removal of teeth rather difficult. These supernumerary teeth can ideally be removed after permanent dentition eruption is completed to avoid injuring permanent dentition.

Conclusion:

This case is presented for its rarity. Radiology helps not only in diagnosing this disorder but also in ascertaining the presence or absence of dental cavity in the floor of the nasal cavity which could cause difficulties in removing this mass endoscopically.

References:

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