

CHRONIC PYOGENIC OSTEOMYELITIS OF THE MANDIBLE —A STUDY OF 34 CASES

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Pyogenic osteomyelitis of the mandible usually starts as an acute infection and later becomes chronic. However it has been noticed that in anaemic subjects it could start as a chronic infection of low virulence, specially when oral sepsis is present.

34 such cases were treated at the Oral Surgery Unit, Dental School and General Hospital, Kandy during the period August 1972 to August 1982. The hospital records, and radiographs of these patients were perused to ascertain, age, sex, site of infection, X-ray appearance, oral hygiene status, level of haemoglobin and social status.

All the patients were from the estate worker population who drew a monthly income of less than Rs. 450. Their mean haemoglobin level was 7.39%. Females were the majority (74.6%), 60.3% were in the age group 40-49. Radiographs revealed bone destruction, no sequestration and no new bone formation, in all patients.

Correction of the anaemia, curratage and suitable antibiotics proved to be a satisfactory line of treatment in 87.3% of patients. 12.7% of patients also needed irrigation of the infected area.

Reference

1. Ogunjumo, D. O. (1981), Socio-economic implications of chronic pyogenic osteomyelitis in a developing community, *Public Health*, 95, (4), 226-31.