

ODONTOGENIC KERATOCYSTS (PRIMORDIAL CYSTS) OF THE JAWS :
A STUDY OF 69 CASES OVER A DECADE.

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Sixty nine cases of odontogenic keratocysts (primordial cysts) were accessioned in the Department of Oral Pathology from January 1978 to December 1987 are described. There were 42 males and 27 females, a ratio of 1.6:1. The age range was 8 years to 73 years, mean age 31.7 ± 14.7 (SD). Of the patients 13 were between 0 - 19 years, 36 were between 20 - 39 years and 20 above 40 years. There was no association between sex and age ($\chi^2 = 99. p < 0.5, NS$). The commonest presenting in the jaws was a painful swelling. There were 15 (22.7%) cases in the maxilla and 51 (77.3%) in the mandible. The mandible to maxilla ratio was 3.4:1. Of the 51 mandibular cases 0, 8, 7 and 25 cases were associated with [1,2], [3], [4,5], [6,7,8] teeth respectively. There were multiple tooth involvement in 11 cases, mainly in the posterior quadrants of the mandible. Of the 15 maxillary cysts 0, 6, 3 and 5 cases were associated with [1,2], [3], [4,5], [6,7,8] respectively. Recurrence after intraoral surgery was seen in 11.6%. Five out of 69 cases gave a positive history of having multiple nevoid basal cell carcinoma syndrome. Age range 8 - 47 years, mean age 20.5 years, male female ration 1.5:1.

Histopathologically 96% were lined with a stratified squamous keratinized epithelium, while 4% had a pseudostratified columnar ciliated epithelial lining. Parakeratinization was in 81.5% of cysts. The lining epithelium was thin in 67% with no reteridges in 85% of linings. Absence of chronic inflammatory cell infiltrate was seen in 40% linings, 29% had mild inflammatory cell infiltration with no dysptasia. Desquameted keratin within the cyst cavity was seen in 82% of cysts.