

A-14 Mucocele - a retention cyst or an extravasation cyst?

P R Jayasooriya, B R R N Mendis, E A P D Amaratunga

(Dept. of Oral Pathology, Faculty of Dental Sciences, Univ. of Peradeniya)

Mucoceles in the mouth are common, but exceedingly rare in the parotid and sub-mandibular glands. Objective of the present study is to determine histopathological criteria necessary for the diagnosis of mucous retention and extravasation cysts. Clinico-pathological features of 100 mucoceles retrieved from the files of the Dept. of Oral Pathology were studied. Grossly the cysts ranged in size from 5 to 30 mm. 94% involved the minor salivary glands while 6% involved the sub-lingual glands.

Approximately two thirds (69%) of the cysts occurred within the first 3 decades of life with a male:female ratio of 1.2:1. The commonest site affected by the lesion was lower lip (73%), followed by buccal mucosa, floor of the mouth 11% each, soft palate 2%, retromolar area, alveolar mucosa, tongue 1% each. Histologically 18% of the cysts were true mucous retention cysts. The wall of 10 cysts were partially lined by simple cuboidal epithelium, 3 by pseudostratified columnar ciliated, 5 by stratified squamous epithelium. 82% were mucous extravasation cysts. These cysts did not contain an epithelial lining. Instead the cyst wall was made up of granulation tissue and chronic inflammatory cells. Therefore it can be concluded that the so-called mucocele is an extravasation phenomenon in about 82% of the patients studied while true retention phenomenon was observed only in 18%.