A study of 1177 odontogenic lesions in a South Kerala population

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Abstract Context: A study on odontogenic cysts and tumors.

Aims: The aim of this study is to determine the frequency of odontogenic cysts and tumors and their distribution according to age, gender, site and histopathologic types of those reported over a period of 1998–2012 in a Tertiary Health Care Center at South Kerala.

Settings and Design: The archives of Department of Oral Pathology and Microbiology, were retrospectively analyzed.

Subjects and Methods: Archival records were reviewed and all the cases of odontogenic cysts and tumors were retrieved from 1998 to 2012.

Statistical Analysis Used: Descriptive statistical analysis was performed using the computer software, Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) IBM SPSS Software version 16.

Results: Of 7117 oral biopsies, 4.29% were odontogenic tumors. Ameloblastoma was the most common odontogenic tumor comprising 50.2% of cases, followed by keratocystic odontogenic tumor (24.3%). These tumors showed a male predilection (1.19: 1). Odontogenic tumors occurred in a mean age of 33.7 ± 16.8 years. Mandible was the most common jaw affected (76.07%). Odontogenic cysts constituted 12.25% of all oral biopsies. Radicular cyst comprised 75.11% of odontogenic cysts followed by dentigerous cyst (17.2%).

Conclusions: This study showed similar as well as contradictory results compared to other studies, probably due to geographical and ethnic variations which is yet to be corroborated.

Key Words: Ameloblastoma, dentigerous cyst, keratocystic odontogenic tumor, odontogenic cyst, odontogenic tumor

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INTRODUCTION

Odontogenic tumors are derived from epithelial, ectomesenchymal and/or mesenchymal elements of the tooth-forming apparatus. These lesions range from hamartomatous to benign neoplasms to malignant tumors with metastatic potential. They are found exclusively within the maxillofacial skeleton (intraosseous) or

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in the gingiva overlying tooth-bearing areas or alveolar mucosa in edentulous regions.^[1] Odontogenic cysts are derived from the epithelium of the dental apparatus.^[2]

World Health Organization (WHO) published the classification of odontogenic tumors in 1971,^[3] and later revised it in 1992^[4] and in 2005.^[2] In the 1992 classification,

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calcifying odontogenic cyst was introduced as an odontogenic tumor. In 2005 WHO classification, odontogenic keratocyst was reclassified as keratocystic odontogenic tumor (KCOT). This has increased the frequency and distribution of odontogenic tumors.^[5] There seems to be regional variations in the distribution of odontogenic cysts and tumors in the literature. Very few studies have been reported among Asians, especially from India. Epidemiological data on odontogenic cysts and tumors are lacking from Kerala, the southern part of India. This study was undertaken to address the distribution of odontogenic cysts and tumors in a tertiary dental health-care center in southern part of Kerala.

SUBJECTS AND METHODS

Pathology archival records of the Department of Oral Pathology and Microbiology were reviewed and all the cases of odontogenic cysts and tumors from 1998 to 2012 were retrieved. The histopathologic diagnoses were confirmed by reviewing the hematoxylin and eosin stained slides and were reclassified according to the 2005 WHO classification. If any recurrence was noticed, it was considered as a single case. Cases with incomplete records were excluded from the study. The study variables were age, gender, site of the lesion and histopathology of odontogenic cysts and tumors. Descriptive statistical analysis was performed using the computer software, Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 16. IBM SPSS Software version 16.

RESULTS

Of the 7117 oral biopsies retrieved from the archives during1998-2012, 1177 were odontogenic lesions. About 305 odontogenic tumors (4.29% of total specimens) were found. Benign odontogenic tumors comprised 99.0% of odontogenic tumors and 1.0% were malignant odontogenic tumors. The most common tumor was ameloblastoma which constituted 50.2% of odontogenic tumors. Nearly 80.4% of ameloblastomas were solid, while unicystic and peripheral types formed 17.6% and 2.0%, respectively. KCOT formed the second most common tumor, comprising 24.3% of odontogenic tumors. Odontoma formed 13.1% of all cases. The frequency of odontogenic tumors is shown in Table 1.

Odontogenic tumors occurred in the age range of 4–74 years with a mean age of 33.7 ± 16.8 years. Of 153 ameloblastomas, 103 cases (67.32%) occurred in the third-fifth decades of life. 62.16% of KCOT occurred in the second to fourth decades. Odontoma (60%) showed a higher frequency in the second decade. A significant association (P = 0.01) was found between age and the histopathological diagnosis. The distribution of odontogenic tumors according to age is shown in Table 2.

Table 1: Distribution of the odontogenic tumors according to histopathologic types and gender

SOT 2 0.66 54 20 2.7:1 CEOT 3 0.98 2 1 2:1 AOT 12 3.93 6 6 1:1 KCOT 74 24.3 0 1 - AF 1 0.33 1 1 1:1 AFO 2 0.66 0 2 - Odontoma 40 13.1 4 3 1.33:	Odontogenic tumors	Count	Percentage	Male	Female	Male/ female
CEOT30.98212:1AOT123.93661:1KCOT7424.301-AF10.33111:1AFO20.6602-Odontoma4013.1431.33:CCOT72.3022181.22:OM20.66111:1OF41.31221:1Cementoblastoma20.6602-AC10.3310-	Ameloblastoma	153	50.2	72	81	1:1.13
AOT 12 3.93 6 6 1:1 KCOT 74 24.3 0 1 - AF 1 0.33 1 1 1:1 AFO 2 0.66 0 2 - Odontoma 40 13.1 4 3 1.33: CCOT 7 2.30 22 18 1.22: OM 2 0.66 1 1 1:1 OF 4 1.31 2 2 1:1 Cementoblastoma 2 0.66 0 2 - AC 1 0.33 1 0 -	SOT	2	0.66	54	20	2.7:1
KCOT7424.301-AF10.33111:11AFO20.6602-Odontoma4013.1431.33:CCOT72.3022181.22:OM20.66111:11OF41.31221:11Cementoblastoma20.6602-AC10.3310-	CEOT	3	0.98	2	1	2:1
AF10.33111:1AFO20.6602-Odontoma4013.1431.33:CCOT72.3022181.22:OM20.66111:1OF41.31221:1Cementoblastoma20.6602-AC10.3310-	AOT	12	3.93	6	6	1:1
AFO 2 0.66 0 2 - Odontoma 40 13.1 4 3 1.33: CCOT 7 2.30 22 18 1.22: OM 2 0.66 1 1 1:1 OF 4 1.31 2 2 1:1 Cementoblastoma 2 0.66 0 2 - AC 1 0.33 1 0 -	KCOT	74	24.3	0	1	-
Odontoma 40 13.1 4 3 1.33: CCOT 7 2.30 22 18 1.22: OM 2 0.66 1 1 1:1 OF 4 1.31 2 2 1:1 Cementoblastoma 2 0.66 0 2 - AC 1 0.33 1 0 -	AF	1	0.33	1	1	1:1
CCOT 7 2.30 22 18 1.22: OM 2 0.66 1 1 1:1 OF 4 1.31 2 2 1:1 Cementoblastoma 2 0.66 0 2 - AC 1 0.33 1 0 -	AFO	2	0.66	0	2	-
OM 2 0.66 1 1 1:1 OF 4 1.31 2 2 1:1 Cementoblastoma 2 0.66 0 2 - AC 1 0.33 1 0 -	Odontoma	40	13.1	4	3	1.33:1
OF 4 1.31 2 2 1:1 Cementoblastoma 2 0.66 0 2 - AC 1 0.33 1 0 -	CCOT	7	2.30	22	18	1.22:1
Cementoblastoma 2 0.66 0 2 - AC 1 0.33 1 0 -	OM	2	0.66	1	1	1:1
AC 1 0.33 1 0 -	OF	4	1.31	2	2	1:1
	Cementoblastoma	2	0.66	0	2	-
PIOSCC 2 0.66 1 1 1:1	AC	1	0.33	1	0	-
	PIOSCC	2	0.66	1	1	1:1

SOT: Squamous odontogenic tumor, CEOT: Calcifying epithelial odontogenic tumor, AOT: Adenomatoid odontogenic tumor, KCOT: Keratocystic odontogenic tumor, AF: Ameloblastic fibroma, AFO: Ameloblastic fibro odontoma, CCOT: Calcifying cystic odontogenic tumor, OM: Odontogenic myxoma, OF: Odontogenic fibroma, AC: Ameloblastic carcinoma, PIOSCC: Primary intra osseous squamous cell carcinoma

Odontogenic tumors showed a slight male predilection. About 54.4% of cases were males and 45.6% were females. Ameloblastoma showed an almost equal distribution in males and females with a male to female ratio of 1:1.13. KCOT showed a male predominance with a male to female ratio of 2.7:1. Odontoma showed a slight male predilection.

Mandible was the most common jaw involved (76.07%). In 57.7% of odontogenic tumors, mandibular posterior region was involved. The distribution based on different anatomic sites is shown in Table 3.

Odontogenic cysts constituted 12.25% (872 cases) of oral biopsies over a period of 1998-2012. Radicular cyst was the most common odontogenic cyst and accounted for 75.11% of odontogenic cysts. Dentigerous cyst was the second most common cyst forming 17.2% of odontogenic cysts. Other cysts accounted for 7.67% of cases.

Overall, a slight male predilection was noticed as shown in Table 4. Nearly 55.2% of odontogenic cyst occurred in males and 44.8% in females. Radicular cyst showed almost equal gender distribution. Dentigerous cyst showed a female predilection.

Radicular cyst showed a peak incidence in third and fourth decades with a mean age of occurrence of 35.7 ± 16.7 years. The dentigerous cyst was more common in the second decade. The distribution of odontogenic cyst according to age is given in Table 5.

The maxilla was the most common jaw affected by the odontogenic cysts. In 46.1% of cases maxillary anterior region was involved. The next common site was a mandibular posterior

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	Table 2: Distribution	of odontogenic tumo	ors according to age
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Odontogenic tumor					Age in	decades				
	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	Mean	SD
Ameloblastoma	1	14	40	29	34	16	15	4	37.79	15.45
SOT	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	42.00	14.14
CEOT	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	31.00	11.53
AOT	0	5	4	0	1	2	0	0	25.08	15.54
KCOT	1	14	16	16	8	13	3	3	35.51	16.84
AF	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	11.00	-
AFO	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	10.00	11.31
CCOT	0	1	2	3	0	0	0	1	34.00	19.05
Odontoma	3	24	7	2	2	2	0	0	17.55	10.07
OM	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	35.00	24.04
OF	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	39.00	18.78
Cementoblastoma	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	28.00	19.80
AC	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	52.00	-
PIOSCC	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	49.50	7.78

SOT: Squamous odontogenic tumor, CEOT: Calcifying epithelial odontogenic tumor, AOT: Adenomatoid odontogenic tumor, KCOT: Keratocystic odontogenic tumor, AF: Ameloblastic fibroma, AFO: Ameloblastic fibro odontoma, CCOT: Calcifying cystic odontogenic tumor, OM: Odontogenic myxoma, OF: Odontogenic fibroma, AC: Ameloblastic carcinoma, PIOSCC: Primary intra osseous squamous cell carcinoma, SD: Standard deviation

Odontogenic tumor		Intra-osseous							
	Maxillary anterior	Maxillary posterior	Mandibular anterior	Mandibular posterior					
Ameloblastoma	4	10	31	105	3				
SOT	1	1	0	0	0				
CEOT	0	1	1	1	0				
AOT	7	3	2	0	0				
KCOT	6	11	13	44	0				
AF	0	0	0	1	0				
AFO	0	1	0	1	0				
CCOT	0	0	3	4	0				
Odontoma	18	8	3	11	0				
OM	0	0	1	1	0				
OF	0	0	1	3	0				
Cementoblastoma	0	0	0	2	0				
AC	0	0	0	1	0				
PIOSCC	0	1	0	1	0				

SOT: Squamous odontogenic tumour, CEOT: Calcifying epithelial odontogenic tumor, AOT: Adenomatoid odontogenic tumor, KCOT: Keratocystic odontogenic tumor, AF: Ameloblastic fibroma, AFO: Ameloblastic fibro odontoma, CCOT: Calcifying cystic odontogenic tumor, OM: Odontogenic myxoma, OF: Odontogenic fibroma, AC: Ameloblastic carcinoma, PIOSCC: Primary intra osseous squamous cell carcinoma

Table 4. Distribution of odontogenic cysts based on genaci											
Odontogenic cyst	Frequency	Percentage	Male	Female	Male/ female						
RC	655	75.11	343	312	1.10:1						
DC	150	17.2	105	45	2.33:1						
Residual cyst	44	5.02	20	24	1:1.2						
LPC	9	1.03	5	4	1.25						
Unclassified	14	1.61	8	6	1.33:1						

Table 4: Distribution of odontogenic cysts based on gender

RC: Radicular cyst, DC: Dentigerous cyst, LPC: Lateral periodontal cyst

region (24.54%). Radicular and dentigerous cyst occurred mostly in the maxillary anterior region.

DISCUSSION

Different odontogenic tumors show variation in clinical presentation and aggressiveness. In this study, odontogenic cysts and tumors constituted 16.54% of total oral biopsies. The frequency of odontogenic tumors was 4.29%. This is comparable to other studies from Asia;^[6] higher than those

from America,^[7,8] but lower than those from Africa.^[9] A racial difference could be the most possible attributable reason for these variations in the prevalence. Table 6 shows a comparison of various retrospective studies on odontogenic tumors reported from different regions.

The most common odontogenic tumor in this study is ameloblastoma (50.2%), similar to other studies from Asian^[6,10] and African^[9,11] countries. Clinicopathological studies from American^[7,12] countries presented odontoma as the most common odontogenic tumor followed by ameloblastoma in the second position. In this study, odontoma is in the third position following ameloblastoma and KCOT, with a frequency of 13.1%. The lower prevalence of odontoma in the Asian and African population may be due to the lack of routine dental care as these tumours remain unnoticed for years. Moreover, after surgical removal these tumours might not been sent for histopathological examination.

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Odontogenic cyst	Age in decades										
	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	Mean	SD
RC	21	112	160	160	105	69	50	15	2	35.70	16.68
DC	20	52	20	19	19	10	6	3	0	27.65	18.12
Residual cyst	0	0	2	3	11	14	12	2	0	53.91	11.67
LPC	0	2	4	2	0	1	0	0	0	28.33	10.63
Unclassified	1	4	4	2	2	1	0	0	0	27.57	13.84

Table 5: Distribution of odontogenic cysts based on age

RC: Radicular cyst, DC: Dentigerous cyst, LPC: Lateral periodontal cyst, SD: Standard deviation

Author	Region	Number of cases	Most common tumor (%)	Malignant odontogenic tumors (%)	Male: Female	Maxillary: Mandibular
Luo and Li ^[6]	China	1309	KCOT (38.7)	5.1	1.35:1	1:3.50
Ochsenius <i>et al.</i> ^[7]	Chile	362	ODO (44.7)	1.1	1:1.15	1:1.14
Osterne <i>et al.</i> ^[8]	Brazil		AME (29.2)	0.0	0.62:1	1:2.1
Ladeinde et al. ^[9]	Nigeria	319	AME (63.0)	3.4	1.03:1	1:4.08
Jing et al. ^[10]	China	1642	AME (40.3)	3.0	1.4:1	1:4
Adebayo <i>et al.</i> ^[11]	Nigeria	318	AME (73.2)	1.3	1.35:1	1:4.41
Daley et al. ^[12]	Canada	392	ODO (51.5)	0.3	-	-
Gupta and Ponniah ^[13]	India	489	AME (67.7)	3.1	1.08:1	1:4.02
Mosqueda-Taylor et al.[14]	Mexico	349	ODO (34.6)	1.1	1:1.25	1:1.03
Okada et al. ^[15]	Sri Lanka	226	AME (69.8)	2.6	1:1.11	1:3.91
Sriram and Shetty ^[16]	India	250	AME (61.5)	1.2	1.2:1	1:3.8
Fernandes et al. ^[17]	Brazil	340	AME (45.2)	0.6	1:1.23	1:1.9
Johnson <i>et al.</i> ^[18]	Queensland	93	KCOT (74.2)	0.0	1.5:1	1:2.3
Regezi <i>et al.</i> ^[19]	USA	706	ODO (65.0)	0.2	1:1.17	1.04:1

AME: Ameloblastoma, ODO: Odontoma, KCOT: Keratocystic odontogenic tumor

After the inclusion of odontogenic keratocyst as KCOT in 2005 WHO classification, the prevalence of odontogenic tumors has increased. In this study, KCOT accounts for 24.3% of odontogenic tumors, forming the second most common odontogenic tumor. The frequency of adenomatoid odontogenic tumor (AOT) was 3.93% which is comparable to studies from China.^[6,10] Epidemiological studies from other parts of India^[13] showed a higher frequency of 9% for AOT. Further follow-up studies on different geographical location could prove whether a racial difference is present for the occurrence of certain types of odontogenic tumor in a given population.

The frequency of odontogenic myxoma in this study was 0.66% which is a lower value compared to previous studies. Retrospective studies from Nigeria,^[9] Brazil^[8] and Mexico^[14] showed a frequency of 6.5–17.7% related to odontogenic myxoma. The frequency of odontogenic myxoma in Sri Lanka^[15] and China^[6] was in the range of 2.6–4.9%. Other studies from India^[13] also showed a higher frequency than this study. The reason for this low incidence needs further investigation.

This study showed the mean age of odontogenic tumors as 33.7 years with peak occurrence in the third decade, similar to other studies from India,^[16] China^[10] and Nigeria.^[9] However, studies from Chile^[7] and Brazil^[17] showed the mean age less than a decade. This may be because odontoma constituted the

most common odontogenic tumor in those populations or may be due to a racial difference in incidence.

Overall a slight male predilection (male:female = 1.19:1) of odontogenic tumors was noticed in this study. This is in concordance with studies from China,^[6,10] Australia^[18] and another study from India.^[16] Ameloblastoma showed a male to female ratio of 1:1.13. This result was different from studies in China,^[6] Nigeria^[9] and another study from India^[16] where a male predilection was noticed. However, a study from Brazil^[8] showed a female predilection. In this study, KCOT showed a definite male predilection which is in agreement with many other studies,^[6,20] but this is different from a study from Brazil.^[8] This possibly discloses a gender difference among different populations.

Mandible was the most common jaw affected with maxilla to mandible ratio of 1:3.2, which is similar to other studies from Asia^[6,13] and Africa.^[9] However, studies from American continent^[7,14,19] showed an almost equal predilection for both the jaws. This might be due to the lower frequency of ameloblastoma in that population.

In this study, 18% of ameloblastoma showed recurrence. No significant association was found between recurrence and age, gender or site. 10.7% of KCOT also showed recurrence; and no statistical association was found between recurrence and age, gender or site.

Odontogenic cysts comprised 12.25% of all oral biopsies during 1998–2012, which was 2.86 times the frequency of odontogenic tumors. This frequency of odontogenic cysts is similar to other studies in the UK^[21] and Saudi Arabia.^[22] The most common odontogenic cyst in the present study was radicular cyst, similar to other studies.^[23-25] Radicular cysts comprised 75.11% of odontogenic cysts, which is higher than most of the other studies.^[23,24] However, a study from Sicily^[25] showed a higher frequency of 84.5%. The higher frequency in our study may be due to the exclusion of odontogenic keratocyst from the category of the cyst.

Dentigerous cyst constituted 17.2% of odontogenic cysts. This result is in concordance with a systematic review by Johnson et al.[26] However, the incidence is lower than studies from Brazil^[23] and Saudi Arabia.^[22] This study showed a definite male predilection with a male to female ratio of 2.33:1. Daley et al.^[12] suggested that this might be due to a smaller jaw size and a greater trend for prophylactic extraction of third molars in females. In the present study, dentigerous cyst showed an almost equal predilection for maxillary anterior and mandibular posterior regions. This is in contrast to other studies^[23,24] showing a definite predilection for the mandibular posterior region. Esthetic concerns of the patients regarding non-eruption of anterior teeth, especially canine might have resulted in an increased reporting of dentigerous cyst in that region. Any geographical difference in the population regarding the site of occurrence is yet to be ruled out. Residual cyst constituted 5.02% of odontogenic cyst and showed a slight female predilection. These cysts showed high frequency in fifth to seventh decades and most commonly occurred in the mandibular posterior region. The remaining cysts constituted only 2.65% of cases.

Clinically, most of these cysts and tumors (60.6%) presented with a swelling, though some were asymptomatic (20.4%). Complete clinical data could not be retrieved for the remaining cases. We also recorded the radiographic features of ameloblastoma and KCOT, even though this was not included in our objectives. Sixty-nine (45.4%) cases of ameloblastoma showed a multilocular radiolucency and 24 (15.8) were unilocular. Radiographic details were not available for 59 cases. About 37.8% of KCOT showed unilocular radiolucency whereas 25.7% were multilocular. Radiographic details were not available for the remaining cases of KCOT.

The present study reviewed the epidemiological profile of odontogenic cysts and tumors in a tertiary dental health-care setting in southern Kerala. There are only three such institutions in Kerala, one each in the northern, central and southern part. Hence, people with tumor and tumor-like lesions of the jaw reporting to this institution could be taken as fairly representative sample of South Kerala population. We do not know whether there is a real population difference regarding the incidence and distribution of odontogenic cysts and tumors. However, the demographic details in the literature and the result of our review point to that direction. Further studies across different populations may be beneficial.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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