Management of a solid/multicystic Ameloblastoma of the maxilla in a 60 year old female patient

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An Ameloblastoma is a rare, benign tumor of odontogenic epithelium. It occurs much more commonly in the mandible than the maxilla, with the tumor being four times more common in the mandible than the maxilla. Radiographically the solid/multicystic type occurs as a multilocular radiolucency. Buccal and lingual cortical expansion is common in combination with bony thinning, frequently to the point of perforation. Its symptoms include painless expansion of the affected bone and it can eventually lead to severe facial disfigurement and pathological fracture. In this case, the tumour presented as a bony swelling extending from the buccal aspect in the region of the UL3 to the UL6, preventing denture insertion. The patient presented with paresthesia of the left palate and infraorbital regions, (neurosensory changes tend to be uncommon, even in the presence of large Ameloblastomas). Following confirmation of diagnosis with a CT and incisional biopsy, indicating the presence of a solid/multicystic type Ameloblastoma approx. 3cm3 affecting the left maxilla. Management was with wide local excision of the tumour and thus a left hemimaxillectomy with the tuberosity spared. A maxillary obturator was then constructed to restore mid-face projection and reduce oro-nasal regurgitation and the patient is now on long-term review. This case stresses the importance of regular dental examinations as a general dental practitioner may be the first healthcare professional to come across an Ameloblastoma. This case also highlights the fact that tumours can have a huge psychological impact on patients, particularly when affecting function and facial appearance.

Biography

Rajinder Khehra completed her Bachelor of Dental Surgery at the age of 24 from Cardiff School of Dentistry in 2015. Following completion of her dental foundation training in the West Midlands she is now in the middle of her first year in Dental Core Training in which she has completed a 6 month rotation in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and currently in a 6 month Community Dental rotation. Her future career aspirations are to become a specialist Orthodontist.

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