

**Picture Stories**

## Dental lamina cyst in the newborn

\*Deepak Sharma<sup>1</sup>, Jaivinder Yadav<sup>1</sup>, Eva Garg<sup>1</sup>, Hanish Bajaj<sup>1</sup>

*Sri Lanka Journal of Child Health, 2015: 44(4): 236-237*

(Keywords: Dental lamina cyst, Bohn's nodule, Epstein's pearls, palatal cyst, alveolar cyst)

### Case report

A term male newborn with a birth weight of 3.2 kg with normal Apgar scores of 8/9/9 was born to a primigravida mother. The antenatal period was uneventful with normal scans. At birth baby was found to have a yellowish white swelling on the lower alveolar margin 0.5 cm x 0.5 cm (Figure 1).

On further oral cavity examination, there were no other swellings over the soft or hard palate. On the basis of position and colour, a clinical diagnosis of



**Figure 1: Swelling on lower alveolar margin**

\*Permission given by parents to publish photograph

<sup>1</sup>Senior Resident, Department of Paediatrics, Pt B.D Sharma, PGIMS, Rohtak, Haryana India

\*Correspondence: dr.deepak.rohtak@gmail.com

(Received on 23 June 2014; Accepted after revision on 22 August 2014)

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest

Open Access Article published under the Creative

Commons CC-BY-NC-ND Licence.



dental lamina cyst was made. Parents were counselled about this benign condition and baby was discharged. On follow-up after 2 months the cyst had resolved by itself.

### Discussion

Dental lamina cyst, an oral lesion seen in the newborn, is known by varied name such as Bohn's nodule, gingival lamina cyst or Epstein's pearls. It is a common cause of parental anxiety. These terms are frequently used interchangeably though there are some histological and positional differences between them<sup>1</sup>. Dental lamina cyst is one of the few benign lesions found in the oral cavity of the newborn. Fromm divided these benign lesions into 3 types on the basis of their histopathology and position in oral cavity<sup>2</sup>.

1. *Epstein's pearls*: Cystic nodules containing keratin located along midline raphe. They are said to develop from remnants of epithelium in the midline.
2. Bohn's nodule: Cystic nodules containing keratin scattered all over the palate but predominantly located at junction of hard and soft palate. They are said to develop from minor salivary glands.
3. *Dental lamina cysts*: Cystic nodules containing keratin, mostly multiple but occasionally single, located along the alveolar margins (ridges). They are said to develop due to proliferation of remnants of the dental lamina

Paula et al<sup>3</sup> made a simple classification which was based on the location of these cysts in the oral cavity.

- *Palatal cyst* : located in the mid-palatine raphe
- *Alveolar cysts*: located on buccal, lingual, or crest of alveolar ridge

Though the incidence is reported to be around 25-53% they are rarely seen by health personnel as they resolve spontaneously within the first few weeks of life<sup>1,4</sup>. These cysts are frequently confused by the mother with erupting teeth or natal teeth. A careful examination of the lesion rules out

this confusion. These cysts do not require any treatment as they frequently resolve within 1-2 weeks of life but these newborn are followed up to allay maternal anxiety<sup>5,6</sup>.

#### References

1. Jorgenson RJ, Shapiro SD, Salinas CF, Levin LS. Intra oral finding and anomalies in neonates. *Pediatrics* 1982; **69**:577-82.
2. Fromm A. Epstein pearls, Bohn's nodules and inclusion cyst of the oral cavity. *Journal of Dentistry for Children* 1967; **34**:275-87.
3. Paula JD, Dezan CC, Frossard WT, Walter LR, Pinto LM. Oral and facial inclusion cysts in newborns. *Journal of Clinical Pediatric Dentistry* 2006; **31**:127-9.
4. Friend GW, Harris EF, Mincer HH, Fong TL, Carruth KR. Oral anomalies in neonate, by race and gender, in urban setting. *Pediatric Dentistry* 1990; **12**:157-61.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.17796/jcpd.31.2.rw3h853m3rk242q0>  
PMid: 17315809
5. Flinck A, Paludan A, Matsson L, Holm TL, Axelsson I. Oral findings in group of newborn Swedish children. *International Journal of Pediatric Dentistry* 1994; **4**:67-73.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1365263X.1994.tb00107.x>
6. Regezi JA. Cyst of jaws and neck. In: Regezi JA, Sciubba JJ, Jordan RC, editors. *Oral Pathology: Clinical Pathological Correlation*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders Co.; 1999. p. 246.