33. CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND SURGICAL MANAGEMENT OF PEDIATRIC ORO-MAXILLOFACIAL DERMOID CYSTS. COMPARISON BETWEEN LITERATURE DATA AND CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

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Introduction. Dermoid cysts of the oro-maxillofacial region are uncommon congenital lesions that may produce functional and esthetic disturbances depending on their localization and size. Although, first symptoms may be associated with swallowing, speech, or breathing disorders, in case of their oral localization.

Aim of study. The objective of the study was to evaluate the clinical manifestations and surgical treatment of pediatric dermoid cysts through a comparative analysis of data reported in the literature and clinical cases treated in an oro-maxillofacial surgery department.

Methods and materials. Forty published studies describing pediatric dermoid cysts were analyzed, using the electronic data base such as PubMed (MEDLINE), Embase (Ovid), Europe PMC, and Google Scholar, in order to identify the most common clinical manifestation, complications, and treatment approaches. These data were compared with three-year retrospective analysis of pediatric patients diagnosed with dermoid cysts in Oro-Maxillofacial Surgery Department "*Ion Lupan*".

Results. According to the literature, dermoid cysts usually present as slow growing, painless masses and frequently discovered incidentally. In some cases, complications such as bone erosion or intraoperative rupture were reported. Clinical observations from the analyzed department showed similar presentations; however, lesions located in the floor of the mouth (1.30%) were associated with functional symptoms, including swallowing difficulties, speech disturbances and tongue displacement. In both literature reports and clinical cases, complete surgical excision (cystectomy) was the treatment of choice and was associated with favorable postoperative outcomes. Although, it is also described a method of incision the wall of the cyst and draining its contents, that is called cystotomy. This technique is rarely employed and it is usually indicated for sublingual cysts localization, in emergency situations (suprainfection).

Conclusions. Dermoid cysts in pediatric patients present similar clinical features across literature reports and clinical practice. However, lesions of the oral cavity may produce more pronounced functional disturbances. Early diagnosis and complete surgical removal remain essential for a successful treatment.

Keywords. Dermoid cyst, pediatric surgery, oral cavity, surgical treatment, pediatric patients.

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