

Natal Teeth: An Interesting Finding in Newborn

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Abstract: Natal teeth that are defined as teeth present at birth and neonatal teeth, defined as teeth observed in the first 30 days of life are uncommonly seen in nursery and post natal wards. They are prone to cause feeding problems and ulcerations on the ventral surface of the tongue. They usually cause unnecessary stress and anxiety to parents and cause discomfort with breastfeeding to mother. We report a newborn that had natal teeth at time of birth and teeth were removed as it was causing hindrance in breast feeding.

Keywords: Natal teeth, congenital teeth, fetal teeth, Predecidual teeth, Dentitia praecox.

INTRODUCTION

Natal teeth erupt in utero, hence are present since birth whereas neonatal teeth erupt during the first month of life [1]. The most frequent erupted teeth are lower central incisors. The etiology is unknown, and the choice of treatment depends on multiple factors.

The incidence of natal tooth is uncommon and its management could be fraught with challenges [2]. Presence of natal teeth has found to be associated with diverse superstitions among different ethnic groups. Natal teeth are more frequent than neonatal teeth, with the ratio being approximately 3: 1. These teeth are benign in appearance but are of fundamental importance as their presence may lead to numerous complications. Early detection and treatment are recommended as they may induce deformity or mutilation of tongue, dehydration, and inadequate nutrients intake by the infant, growth retardation, the pattern and time of eruption of teeth including morphology [3].

CASE REPORT

We report a term baby with a birth weight of 3.2 kg with normal Apgar score was born in our Hospital to a primigravida. Baby was noted to have teeth at time of birth. Teethes were 2 in number located in the centre of the mandibular (figure 1, 2, 3). Baby had no obvious other malformation and screen echo done was normal. Baby was shifted to mother's side. Baby was having difficulty in doing breast feeding due to which both the teeth were removed at age of 3 days. The rest of the course was uneventful.



Fig. 1: Lower central incisors (Natal teeth), 2 in number



Fig. 2: Lower central incisors (Natal teeth), 2 in number



Fig. 3: Lower central incisors (Natal teeth), 2 in number

DISCUSSION

Natal teeth are teeth that are present at birth and neonatal teeth are one which grows in first month of life. They are also called as congenital teeth, fetal teeth, predecidual teeth, and dentitiapraecox [4]. The incidence of natal teeth varies considerably, from 1:700 - 1:30,000 depending on the type of study [5]. There is no difference in prevalence between males and females [3]. Presence of natal and neonatal teeth is definitely a disturbance of biological chronology, whose etiology is still unknown [6]. Most often natal teeth are mandibular central incisors [7]. They have little root structure and are attached to the end of the gum by soft tissue [8].

Syndromes that are associated with natal teeth include Ellis-van Creveld syndrome, Hallermann-Streiff Syndrome, Pierre Robin syndrome, Soto's syndrome, congenital pachyonychia [3]. Natal teeth are more frequent than neonatal teeth, the ratio being approximately 3 to 1. Treatment option is extracted and they can be removed with forceps or even with the fingers without much difficulty [9].

CONCLUSION

- Natal teeth are the teeth that are present at birth and are a rare finding.
- Natal teeth are associated with Ellis-van Creveld syndrome, Hallermann-Streiff syndrome, Pierre Robin syndrome, Soto's syndrome, congenital pachyonychia.
- Treatment is extracted, either with forceps or even with the fingers without much difficulty.

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