The Successful Use of Marsupialization of Maxillary Cysts and Benign Tumors Combined With Orthodontic Treatment

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**Abstract**

**Introduction:** We aimed through a systematic review of the literature to evaluate the effectiveness of marsupialization or decompression for cysts and benign cystic tumors of the jaw and to provide more information on the contribution of orthodontics to this conservative treatment. **Articles and Methods:** An electronic search on PubMed/MEDLINE and Cochrane Library databases was conducted using MeSH terms. The relevant articles published in English were identified after a review of their titles, abstracts and full reading of the papers. **Results:** Forty-six articles were included and analyzed. In this study, 1089 patients were included, with a total of 1101 lesions. Only 10 published articles dealt with the combined use of marsupialization of cystic lesions of the jaw and orthodontic treatment. **Conclusion:** Marsupialization or decompression could be performed as a single surgical procedure or combined with other treatment modalities for many cystic lesions of the jaws. It has been accepted and used as a conservative surgical option. Furthermore, combined orthodontic-surgical technique can be useful to promote the eruption of cyst-associated teeth. The long-term follow-up confirmed the treatment effectiveness. **Keywords:** tumors, orthodontics, cyst-associated teeth.

**INTRODUCTION**

Cystic lesions (CL) are one of the most common pathologies affecting the jaws. Depending on the size of the CL, its location and the patients’ age, several treatment options are available: curettage, enucleation, radical treatment and marsupialization [1]. Marsupialization can be used for primary treatment of large CL. It was first described by Partsch [2] in the German literature in the late 19th century, a large window is created within the cyst bony wall and the cystic lining is sutured to the oral mucosa.

Thomas [3] modified Partsch’s method. In this modification, a small opening is made in the defect and a drainage tube is inserted and fixed at the site. This technique was termed decompression. Marsupialization therapy is suggested to prevent the complications associated with a large CL of the jaw, and to promote the spontaneous eruption of the involved tooth within the cyst. However, tooth eruption does not always occur spontaneously after decompression.

Furthermore, combined orthodontic-surgical technique can be useful to promote the eruption of cyst-associated teeth.

Since there were many cases reported in the literature, there is still not a summary to provide statistical analysis results. Therefore, this paper reviewed all the articles on marsupialization and decompression from the literature.

**METHODS**

**Search Strategy**


**Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria**

In this systematic review, the PICOS format was used, according to the preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and meta-analyses (PRISMA).
guidelines [4], resulting in the following: Population: adult, young or elderly patients with cysts or benign cystic tumors of the jaw that were diagnosed and confirmed histologically; Intervention: Marsupialization or decompression with or without secondary enucleation and adjunctive therapy; Comparator: Not applicable; Outcome: The main outcome was the success of the intervention. Success is defined if the protocol was effective in preserving the important anatomical structures and the associated permanent teeth and led to absence of recurrence; Study design: Randomized controlled trial, retrospective and prospective cohorts, case reports, case series and systematic reviews.

Articles not included in the study were those written in non-English language, those on the pathologic analysis of the CL, those on the osteogenesis evaluation, and those which contents do not answer the search question. This is further described in the following monograph (Fig-1).

**Fig-1: Literature search strategy according to the PRISMA guidelines**

**Data Extraction**

Articles met the inclusion criteria were read in full. Data were extracted according to a preestablished grid and summarizing in standardized tables.

**RESULTS**

A total of 46 articles (Table-1), 1101 lesions in 1089 patients were included and analyzed in this study.

The statistical analysis results were listed below based on the different descriptive variables.
Table-1: Types of study evaluated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of study</th>
<th>Number of studies (References)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Systematic review</td>
<td>2 [5, 6]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randomized controlled trial</td>
<td>1 [7]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prospective cohort study</td>
<td>3 [8-11]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retrospective cohort study</td>
<td>11 [11-21]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case series</td>
<td>8 [22-29]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case report</td>
<td>21 [30-49]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Characteristics of Cystic Lesions Treated With Marsupialization or Decompression

**Histological Diagnosis**

There were many kinds of CL of the jaws mentioned in the 46 articles, including, odontogenic keratocyst (75%), dentigerous cyst (12.1%), ameloblastoma (3.5%), radicular cysts (3.3%), juvenile paradental cysts (0.5%), eruption cysts (0.2%), calcifying odontogenic cyst (0.1%), glandular odontogenic cysts (0.1%), naso-alveolar cysts (0.1%) and adenomatoid odontogenic cyst (0.09%). There were 56 lesions (5.1%) with no definite diagnosis.

**Site of Involvement**

Marsupialization or decompression was performed for several CL in different sites of the jaws; 76.1% were reported in the mandible and 18.8% in the maxilla (Table-2).

Table-2: Distribution of lesions by the site involved

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Maxilla (%)</th>
<th>Mandible (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Odontogenic keratocyst</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dentigerous cyst</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ameloblastoma</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radicular cysts</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juvenile paradental cysts</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eruption cysts</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcifying odontogenic cyst</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glandular odontogenic cysts</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naso alveolar cysts</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adenomatoid odontogenic cysts</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>18.8</td>
<td>76.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Treatment Modality**

Six therapeutic modalities were analyzed in Figure-2. Marsupialization or decompression had been used alone or combined with other surgical treatments in a second surgical stage. The other treatments included enucleation, curettage, bone resection, application of carnoy’s solution and bone graft.

In some cases, orthodontic treatment was indicated to preserve impacted teeth associated cystic lesions.
Devices for Treatment

There were many kinds of devices (Figure 3) when performing marsupialization or decompression, including different tube, gauze, obturator and others. The tube could be made by polyethylene, silastic, resin and rubber. Gauze referred to iodoform gauze impregnated with various substances such as pastes, petroleum jelly or solutions. Obturators were often made from acrylic resin.

![Fig-3: Analysis on devices for treatment](image)

Duration of decompression

The duration of decompression ranged from 3 to 24 months with a mean period of 10 months.

Recurrence

Recurrence was found in only 66 cases (6%) that were diagnosed as an OKC. Marsupialization or decompression was used again or enucleation with curettage or bone resection, had to be done after first recurrence.

Data Related To Orthodontic Treatment

In the present review, 10 published articles dealt with the combined use of marsupialization of the CLJ and orthodontic treatment. Among the 1089 patients, only 14 (1.3%) had received orthodontic treatment after marsupialization or decompression.

The purpose of associating orthodontic treatment with marsupialization was:
- Traction of cystic lesion-associated impacted permanent teeth which did not erupt spontaneously after marsupialization
- Space opening or maintaining.
- To correct teeth position after marsupialization

DISCUSSION

Marsupialization or decompression has been accepted as conservative and non-invasive surgical option for the treatment of benign cystic lesions of the jaws. It aims to reduce the size of the cyst: opening the cyst eliminates its osmotic pressure and bone apposition gradually occurs at the site previously occupied by the epithelial covering of the cyst [50].

This conservative treatment was most often used in the four common cystic lesions (OKC, dentigerous cysts, radicular cysts, and cystic ameloblastoma) in the jaws. The treatment could also be used in other cystic lesions like nasoalveolar cyst, calcifying and glandular odontogenic cyst from the articles reported.

When it comes to site of involvement, this review showed that such cystic lesion may occur at different sites of maxilla and mandible. The large cystic lesions were occasionally seen on maxilla with sinus involved and on mandible with all the teeth and even ramus involved. These results are in agreement with Hou et al., findings [51].

Marsupialization had been used alone, or followed by second stage surgery (enucleation with or without adjunctive measures). It is more used alone in dentigerous cysts and radicular cysts, since it can obtain good results in such lesions. The secondary treatments were often seen in odontogenic keratocyst and cystic ameloblastoma due to their high recurrence rate and local aggressiveness [52, 51].
According to the present study, there were different devices used in the treatment including tubes, gauzes, and obturators. Tube needs irrigation twice a day, obturator needs shrinking every recall time, and gauze needs changing every other week.

The combination of marsupialization with orthodontic treatment is a conservative, efficient protocol that promotes the eruption of cyst-associated teeth even if they are deeply impacted, crowded, or have a dilacerated root [53].

From the results, it showed that marsupialization or decompression had a lot of advantages: Firstly, it can minimize the cyst. Secondly, it can promote the eruption of the involved teeth and maintain the developing dentition.

Thirdly, when compared with the often-mutilating radical cystectomies or resection methods, it can minimize the risk of damage to important anatomical tissue nearby, including inferior alveolar nerve and sinus, and the damage to pathologic fracture of mandible. Lastly, it can minimize the damage to bone tissue and stimulate osteogenesis.

However, there are also some disadvantages of the treatment. Firstly, it is a long healing period and the discomfort of the patient is obvious at the early stages of marsupialization. It requires cooperation from patients or parents, which plays a major role in the success rate of this treatment plan. Secondly, the cyst lining is not removed entirely, so only a part of it is examined histologically. Thirdly, a longer follow-up period is required in some cases to make sure the eruption of involving teeth and associated recurrence with this treatment.

**CONCLUSION**

To summarize, marsupialization or decompression could be performed as a single surgical procedure or combined with other treatment modalities. It has been accepted and used as a conservative surgical option for the management of benign cystic lesions of the jaw. The long-term observation confirmed the effectiveness of the treatment.

**REFERENCES**


