Large mucocele involving the ventral surface of tongue in a new born: rare occurrence

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Abstract This report describes a case of new born baby with large swelling involving the ventral surface of the tongue. Antenatal history was not significant. The swelling was causing difficulty in breathing and deglutition. The swelling was excised completely. Histological report was suggestive of intravasation cyst.

Keywords Mucocele · Tongue · New born

Introduction

Mucoceles are common cystic lesions in the oral cavity. However, Mucoceles located on the ventral surface of the tongue originating from the anterior lingual salivary glands are rare [1]. Though it is commonly seen in younger age group [2] and follows trauma [3]; it is rare to find them in babies. There is no reported case of Mucocele in new born.

Case report

A new born baby presented with large swelling on the ventral surface of the tongue causing inability to close mouth with continuous protrusion of tongue. The swelling interfered with deglutition and caused respiratory difficulty. The baby was born following normal vaginal delivery and antenatal history of mother was uneventful. Examination revealed 3.5×2.5 cm sized tense swelling along the ventral surface of the tongue causing persistent mouth opening (Fig. 1). The exposed mucosa showed ulceration, while the rest of the mucosa was normal. MRI was suggestive of well demarcated anteriorly placed intralingual mass (Fig. 2). Under general anesthesia, needle aspiration of swelling yielded mucus (Fig. 3). Following partial aspiration, the cystic swelling was completely excised and wound closed (Fig. 4). Histology revealed retention (intravasation cyst).

Discussion

Majority of the mucoceles of the oral cavity occur in the lower lip [5]. Occasionally they may be seen on the ventral surface of the tongue where they involve glands of Blandin-

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Fig. 1 Frontal view showing large swelling on the ventral surface of tongue

Fig. 2 MRI suggestive of well demarcated cystic lesion

Nuhn [2, 6]. They are sub mucous glands located within the ventral part of the muscles of the tongue, anteriorly, close to the midline with their ducts opening on inferior surface. Mucoceles usually follow trauma and are seen in younger age group. There has been no previously reported case of Mucocele of tongue in newborn.

Conflict of interest The authors do not have any disclosable interest.

Fig. 3 Intra operative aspiration of cystic mass

Fig. 4 Post operative picture after complete excision of the swelling

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