

# Keratocystic odontogenic tumor

## *Tumor odontogênico ceratocístico*

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### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** to evaluate the frequency of keratocystic odontogenic tumor (KOT) in the Oral Surgery Service (OSS) of the University Hospital Clementino Fraga Filho of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (HUCFF / UFRJ), with respect to recurrence rate, gender, age of recurrence and location of the injury. **Methods:** clinical records were reviewed and histopathological reports of KOT patients of the HUCFF/UFRJ between 2002 and 2012. Patients diagnosed with KOT were divided into two groups for the occurrence of relapse: positive (n=6) and negative (n=19). **Results:** regarding the location, there was a predilection for the mandible. In the average age of patients in the positive group was 40.5 and the negative group, 35.53. In the distribution by gender, positive group showed equal distribution, different from that observed in the negative group, which showed a predilection for males. **Conclusion:** KOT was the second most frequent injury in our patients, recurrence was lower among males and had the jaw as most affected location

**Keywords:** Odontogenic Tumors. Recurrence. Diagnosis, Differential.

### INTRODUCTION

Odontogenic tumors are neoplasias that develop exclusively in the gnathic bones, originating from odontogenic tissues by proliferation of epithelial tissue, mesenchymal one, or both. The term keratocyst odontogenic (KO) was introduced by Philipsen, in 1956, and referred to any maxillary cyst that presented keratin formation<sup>1,2</sup>. In 1962, the histological criteria and the specific clinical behavior were established for this lesion, which was different from the other jaw cysts<sup>2,3</sup>. The last World Health Organization (WHO) classification of odontogenic tumors called odontogenic keratocyst a keratocystic odontogenic tumor, based on the presence of genetic and molecular alterations, which would also be present in some neoplasias<sup>4</sup>. Despite this change in the KO classification, Neville *et al.*<sup>4</sup> and Regezi *et al.*<sup>5</sup> continued to classify this lesion as an odontogenic cyst.

The keratocystic odontogenic tumor is an injury that requires special considerations because of its aggressive appearance and its potential for recurrence and malignization. It has slow and painless growth. There are two theories for its development: the first from remnants of the dental lamina and the

other from the proliferation of cells of the basal layer of the oral epithelium of the mandible and maxilla<sup>3,6</sup>.

In the literature, there are few published studies that evaluate and correlate the presence or absence of recurrence among cases diagnosed as KOT with age, gender and location of the odontogenic lesion.

The objective of the present study was to evaluate the frequency of keratocystic odontogenic tumors in the Oral Surgery Service (SCO) of the Clementino Fraga Filho University Hospital, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (HUCFF/UFRJ), regarding recurrence rate, gender, age of recurrence and lesion location.

### METHODS

We conducted a retrospective study of data obtained from clinical records of the HUCFF/UFRJ Oral Surgery Service patients and histopathological reports issued by the HUCFF/UFRJ Pathological Anatomy Service from 2002 to 2012. The study included complete patient information on age, lesion location, gender, recurrence and treatment employed, besides the diagnosis of the lesions by histopathology according to the classification of the World Health Organization

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(WHO, 2005). The exclusion criterion was the absence of three or more relevant data in the medical record.

We tabulated the data in a database and analyzed them descriptively with the SPSS 20.0 program.

Surgeries were performed at the hospital and, depending on the extent and locality of the lesion, local or general anesthesia was chosen. The treatment of choice was curettage enucleation of the cyst. In cases of relapse, a second surgery was performed to remove the remaining lesion.

This work was approved by the Ethics in Research Committee (CEP) of HUCFF/UFRJ under opinion No. 993,649.

## RESULTS

There were 96 cases of odontogenic lesions. Of these, 25 (26.04%) were diagnosed as KOT, these being more frequent in the age range of 10-20 years. Other observed odontogenic lesions that are differential diagnosis with KOT were: ameloblastoma, dentigerous cyst, radicular cyst, central giant cell granuloma, traumatic bone cyst, Gorlin's cyst, residual cyst and odontogenic myxoma.

Of the total number of patients with KOT, 24% presented recurrence. Among those who relapsed, the predominant age group was from 41 to 50 years. We assessed the relationship between age and relapse (Figure 1) with the Mann Whitney test, which did not reveal statistical significance ( $p > 0.05$ ). The age distribution of patients with odontogenic keratocysts can be seen in Table 1.

The patients' mean age in the positive group was 40.5, and in the negative, 35.53. In the positive group, the minimum age was 17 years and the maximum, 55. In the negative relapse group, the minimum age was 13 years and the maximum, 96 (Table 1).

The positive group had an equal gender distribution, differently from the negative group, which presented a male preference (Table 2). However, the assessment of relapse in relation to gender, which we performed through the Fisher's exact test, was not statistically significant ( $p > 0.05$ ).

As for location, there was predilection for the mandible, with 56% of the cases negative for relapse; Among the relapsing cases, the mandible was also the most frequent location (Table 3).

**Table 1.** Average, median, standard deviation, minimum and maximum age between groups.

Recurrence		Age	Gender	Location
Negative N	Valid	19	19	19
	Lost	0	0	0
	Average	35.53		
	Median	26.00		
	Standard deviation	22.267		
	Minimal	13		
	Maximum	96		
Positive N	Valid	6	6	6
	Lost	0	0	0
	Average	40.50		
	Median	46.00		
	Standard deviation	14.181		
	Minimal	17		
	Maximum	55		

**Table 2.** Distribution of patients by gender between groups.

		Recurrence		Total
		Negative	Positive	
Gender	Female	7	3	10
	% within gender	70.0%	30.0%	100.0%
	% within recurrence	36.8%	50.0%	40.0%
	% of total	28.0%	12.0%	40.0%
	Male	12	3	15
	% within gender	80.0%	20.0%	100.0%
	% within recurrence	63.2%	50.0%	60.0%
	% of total	48.0%	12.0%	60.0%
Total		19	6	25
	% within gender	76.0%	24.0%	100.0%
	% within recurrence	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	% of total	76.0%	24.0%	100.0%

## DISCUSSION

The keratocystic odontogenic tumor is a maxillary odontogenic lesion of epithelial development, affecting mainly the maxilla and the mandible. Few published studies evaluated KOT regarding gender, age and location in a given region or country based on the 2005 WHO classification<sup>7-12</sup>. In our study, KOT was the second most common lesion, differing from the studies by Chrysomali *et al.*<sup>13</sup> and Johnson *et al.*<sup>14</sup>, in which KOT was more prevalent.

In the present study of the 96 cases, KOT represented 26.04% of them, presenting a higher frequency when compared with the epidemiological data described by Meningaud *et al.*<sup>12</sup>, who analyzed 695 cases diagnosed as odontogenic cysts and observed odontogenic keratocysts in 19,1%. Siriwardena *et al.*<sup>15</sup> investigated the frequency of odontogenic tumors in a given population in Sri Lanka, showing a KOT incidence of 25.7%. Tawfik *et al.*<sup>16</sup> reported an incidence of 19.5%.

In 2012, Servato *et al.*<sup>17</sup> reported the cases diagnosed at the Federal University of Uberlândia, Brazil, and described KOT as one of the most frequent odontogenic tumors, with a rate of 31.7%. Luo *et al.*<sup>18</sup>

reported 1309 cases between 1985 and 2006, and Avelar *et al.*<sup>19</sup> observed a higher frequency of KOT than in the present study; the two rates were, respectively, 38.73% and 30%.

Chirapathomsakul *et al.*<sup>8</sup> analyzed KOT recurrence and observed seven recurrences (22.6%) in their study, which corroborates the data seen in the present study, in which six cases recurred (24%); Of these, 50% appeared in the age group of 41 to 50 years. Madras and Lapointe *et al.*<sup>7</sup> studied 21 KOT patients, and the proportion of recurrence of these lesions was 29%. Regezi *et al.*<sup>5</sup> reported a recurrence rate of 10 to 30%. This explains the importance of the patient's prolonged clinical and radiographic follow-up after removal of the odontogenic keratocystic tumor.

According to Katase *et al.*<sup>20</sup>, KOT is a benign cystic neoplasm that may be associated with basal cell nevus carcinoma syndrome, characterized by multiple cystic lesions. Of the 25 cases of KOT considered in the present study, one case had the described syndrome. Ramaglia *et al.*<sup>21</sup> reported um case of an eight-year-old girl affected by basal cell nevus carcinoma syndrome and Habibi *et al.*<sup>10</sup> reported 8.1% of bearers of this syndrome.

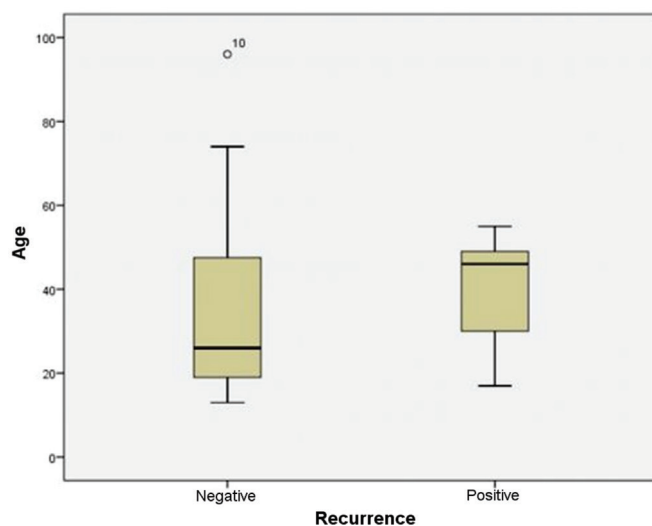
**Table 3.** Anatomical location of the KOT between groups.

Location		Recurrence		Total
		Negative	Positive	
Mandible		14	4	18
	% within gender	77.8%	22.2%	100.0%
	% within recurrence	73.7%	66.7%	72.0%
	% of total	56.0%	16.0%	72.0%
Mandible and maxilla		0	1	1
	% within gender	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	% within recurrence	0.0%	16.7%	4.0%
	% of total	0.0%	4.0%	4.0%
Maxilla		2	1	1
	% within gender	66.7%	33.3%	100.0%
	% within recurrence	10.5%	16.7%	12.0%
	% of total	8.0%	4.0%	12.0%
Unspecified		2	0	2
	% within gender	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	% within recurrence	10.5%	0.0%	8.0%
	% of total	8.0%	0.0%	8.0%
Maxillary Sinus		1	0	1
	% within gender	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	% within recurrence	5.3%	0.0%	4.0%
	% of total	4.0%	0.0%	4.0%
Total		19	6	25
	% within gender	76.0%	24.0%	100.0%
	% within recurrence	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	% of total	76.0%	24.0%	100.0%

According to Lopes *et al.*<sup>6</sup>, KOT is a differential diagnosis of odontogenic cysts or tumors, such as ameloblastoma, giant cell central granuloma, dentigerous cyst, adenomatoid odontogenic tumor, ameloblastic fibroma, traumatic bone cyst, central giant cell granuloma, lateral periodontal cyst and Gorlin's cyst. Regezi *et al.*<sup>5</sup> point out, as odontogenic lesions that are KOT's differential diagnosis, dentigerous cyst, ameloblastoma, odontogenic myxoma, adenomatoid odontogenic tumor and ameloblastic fibroma. Neville *et*

*al.*<sup>4</sup> emphasize that the absence of KO bone expansion helps the differential diagnosis with root cyst and dentigerous cyst. In the present study, the differential diagnosis of KOT were: ameloblastoma, dentigerous cyst, radicular cyst, central giant cell granuloma, traumatic bone cyst, Gorlin's cyst, residual cyst and odontogenic myxoma, which corroborates the literature's findings.

The mandible is the most frequent site of odontogenic keratocyst<sup>1,4,7,9,10,11,13,22-24</sup>. According to Neville *et al.*<sup>4</sup>, the mandible is affected in 60% or 80% of cases.



**Figure 1.** Age of patients according recurring or non recurring KOT.

The present study confirms the data from the literature. Among the cases studied, a simultaneous occurrence was found in the maxilla and mandible, as reported by Auluck *et al.*<sup>25</sup>. In the present study there was a case in which the KOT was present in the maxillary sinus.

Our study showed that KOT was more frequent in males. This is similar to that reported in other studies<sup>1,4,11,13,15,16,22</sup>. Avelar *et al.*<sup>19</sup> and Mallman *et al.*<sup>11</sup> contradict the literature data, presenting a higher frequency in the female gender.

## R E S U M O

**Objetivo:** avaliar a frequência do tumor odontogênico ceratocístico (TOC) no Serviço de Cirurgia Oral (SCO) do Hospital Universitário Clementino Fraga Filho da Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (HUCFF/UFRJ), no que diz respeito à taxa de recidiva, ao sexo, à idade de recorrência e à localização da lesão. **Métodos:** foram examinados os prontuários clínicos e laudos histopatológicos de pacientes do SCO do HUCFF/UFRJ no período de 2002 a 2012. Os pacientes diagnosticados com TOC foram divididos em dois grupos quanto à ocorrência de recidiva: positivo (n=6) e negativo (n=19). **Resultados:** com relação à localização, houve predileção pela mandíbula. Em relação à média de idade dos pacientes, no grupo positivo foi 40,5, e no grupo negativo, de 35,53. Na distribuição por sexo, o grupo positivo apresentou distribuição igualitária, diferentemente do observado no grupo negativo, em que predominou o sexo masculino. **Conclusões:** o TOC representou a segunda lesão mais frequente em nossos pacientes, tem menor recidiva no sexo masculino e tem a mandíbula como localização mais acometida.

**Descritores:** Tumores Odontogênicos. Recidiva. Diagnóstico Diferencial.

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