

**Case Report / Olgu Sunumu**

## **Treatment of Mandibular Large Calcifying Odontogenic Cyst without Grafting: a Case Report**

*Büyük Kalsifiye Odontojenik Kistin Graftsiz Tedavisi: Olgu Sunumu*

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Odontogenic cysts in the jaw are usually located in the mandibular ramus and corpus. In histopathological examination, they are characterized with palisading in the basal layer and large keratinized 'ghost' cell tumor appearance. Odontogenic cysts are important due to their quick growth clinically and pathologically and their high rate of recurrence. Various surgical techniques may be used in its treatment. The 56-year-old male patient admitted to our clinic with complaints of a nodule in his mandibular corpus and intermittent leakage was found to have a 5x5 cm. hard and smooth tumor. The tumor was removed by dissection from the mandibula together with its periosteal and capsule. The pathological examination led to the diagnosis of a calcifying odontogenic cyst. No recurrence was seen during the two-year follow-up of the patient. In our case, no recurrence was seen in the clinical follow-up for two years after the operation. This means that odontogenic cyst treatment is possible without grafting. We would like to focus the interest on surgical treatment of a calcifying odontogenic cyst surgery is possible without grafting and mandibular prosthesis implantation. In this way, graft resorption or implant complications may be avoided.

**Key words:** Calcifying odontogenic cyst; mandibular prosthesis implantation; mandibular neoplasms.

Çenede gelişim gösteren odontojenik kistler sıklıkla mandibula ramus'u ve korpusunda yerleşim göstermektedir. Histopatolojik incelemelerinde bazal tabaka palizatlaşma ve geniş keratinize 'ghost' hücre kitle görünümü ile karakterizedirler. Odontojenik keratokist'ler klinik ve patolojik olarak hızlı büyümeye ve yüksek oranda tekrar oluşum göstergelerini sebebiyle önemlidirler. Tedavide ise farklı cerrahi teknikler uygulanabilmektedir. Kliniğimize mandibula korpusunda şişliği olan ve aralıklarla akıntısı olduğunu ifade eden 56 yaşında erkek hastanın yapılan muayenesinde 5x5 cm büyülüğünde sert düzgün yüzeyli bir kitesi olduğu tesbit edildi. Kitle periot ve kapsülü ile birlikte mandibula'dan diseke edilerek total olarak çıkarıldı. Patolojik incelemede "kalsifiye odontojenik keratokist" tanısı kondu. Hastanın iki yıl boyunca takibi sırasında herhangi bir tekrar oluşuma rastlanmadı. Graftlemeye gerek kalmadan odontojenik kist tedavisi mümkünündür. Biz bu vaka da graftlemeye ya da herhangi bir implant ihtiyacı olmadan büyük bir kalsifiye odontojenik kistin eksiyonunun mümkün olduğunu gösteremeye çalıştık. Bu yaklaşımla olası graft ya da mandibula protezi komplikasyonlarından hastayı korumuş olduk.

**Anahtar sözcükler:** Kalsifiye odontojenik kist; mandibula protezi; mandibuler neoplaziler.

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Calcifying Odontogenic ceratocyst (COC) account for approximately 3-17% of all odontogenic cysts in the jaw.<sup>[1]</sup> They are most commonly observed in the mandibular ramus and angulus mandibularis.<sup>[2]</sup> Histopathologically, they are characterized by palisading in the basal layer and a large keratinized 'ghost' cell tumor appearance.<sup>[3]</sup> Some examples have been shown to resemble ameloblastomas and craniopharyngiomas, however they are distinguished from these by the existence of 'ghost' cells and dentinoids. This rare lesion is significant due to its clinically and pathologically uncommon growth pattern and its high recurrence rate.<sup>[4]</sup> Recurrence is mostly seen within the first five years after the treatment. Recurrence rates can be as high as 62%.<sup>[5]</sup>

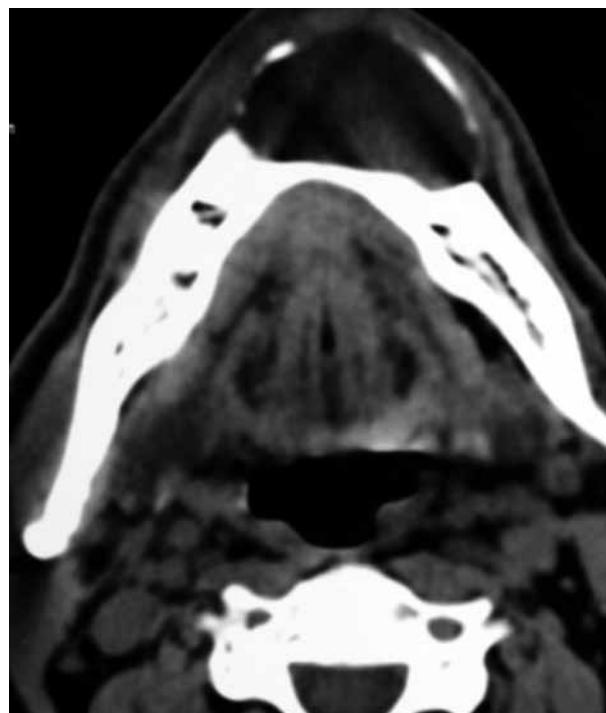
Vedtofte et al.<sup>[6]</sup> found in their study that the dental lamina accompanied the cyst membrane and the debris between the mucosa surrounding it. It was also reported that COC is generally associated with the surrounding soft tissue. In COC, teeth loss and dissolution in the roots may be seen. They resemble ameloblastomas; therefore, age, localization of the lesion, radiographies and tendency for recurrence need to be closely examined.<sup>[7]</sup>

Five to ten years of non-occurrence following the surgery is considered successful.<sup>[7]</sup> The aspiration and histopathological examination of the cyst liquid is absolutely necessary prior to the operation for biopsy and diagnosis.

Due to the high rate of recurrence, many surgeons curate the mucosa and the bones surrounding the cyst.<sup>[7]</sup> Many different surgical techniques ranging from marsupialisation to block resection and grafting may be used. But we prefer surgical treatment of a calcifying odontogenic cyst surgery without grafting and mandibular prosthesis implantation. In this way, graft resorption or implant complications may be avoided.



**Fig. 1.** The approximately 5x5 cm tumor in the mandibular corpus seen in physical examination.



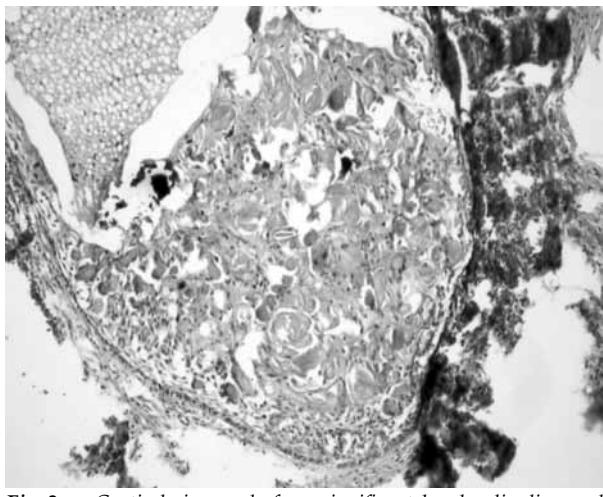
**Fig. 2.** Computerized tomographical image of hypodense cystic lesion that has expanded and eroded the bone cortex.

## CASE REPORT

The 56-year-old male patient admitted to Dr. Abdurrahman Yurtaslan Oncology Training and Research Hospital Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic reported that a nodule started in the middle section of the lower jaw approximately 1.5 years ago and grew slowly. This nodule burst naturally every 3-4 months and released a yellow, transparent liquid, followed by relative shrinking. He also reported that he had lost his teeth over the nodule (Fig. 1). Informed was signed by the patient.

On examination of the patient, a hard and smooth tumor was found in the mandibular corpus, approximately 5x5 cm in extent. Debris from the roots of the eroded teeth was present on the tumor. The non-opaque material high resolution tomographical examination of the maxillofacial area, showed an approximately 4x4 cm hypodense cystic lesion in the mandibular anterior of the patient. The cystic lesion had thinned and occasionally eroded the bone cortex by expanding it. The cyst was rimmed by thin, smooth contoured bone on the periphery and was not accompanied by a soft tissue component. Other structures seemed normal (Fig. 2).

Four ml of opaque yellow fluid was released from the cyst by thin needle aspiration, after which the cyst partially reduced in size. During injection, slight hardness was observed on the thinned bone wall. The cytomorphological findings were congruent with benign odontogenic



**Fig. 3.** Cystic lesion made from significant basal palisading and large keratinized 'Ghost' cell clusters (HEX100).

cyst. Biopsy including approximately 0.5x1 cm mucosa and the thin bone lamella underneath was performed and the patient was diagnosed with cementoblastoma.

Under general anesthesia, the patient's mouth was opened with retractor. The incision performed from the front upper side of the tumor was advanced to the gingivobuccal sulcus on both sides on one level with the first premolar teeth.

The mucosa on the front face of the tumor was elevated. By continuing the elevation from the bottom and sides, we reached the bone tissue. The inner face of the mandibula was found to be undamaged. The tumor was dissected totally from the mandibula together with the periosteum.

The front face of the mentum was found to be destructive and the back face undamaged. The destructive bone debris was curetted and later the bone surface was toured until the undamaged bone tissue was reached by using diamond burr micro tour.

After ensuring homeostasis, the mucosa flap was saturated primarily with 0/3 vicryl. The pathological examination of the removed tumor led to its diagnosis as Calcifying Odontogenic Cyst (COC) (Fig. 3).

Until postoperative tissue recovery was achieved, the patient used bicarbonated gargle and 7.5% polyvinylpyrrolidone iodine complex.

## DISCUSSION

In our case, we used block resection to an unusually big COC. Following the resection, we did not use grafting which is usually considered necessary. No recurrence was seen in the follow-ups in the first year. Brondum and Jensen<sup>[4]</sup> found 3% likelihood of recurrence in the first year following the operation. Forssell et al.<sup>[8]</sup> also reached similar conclusions.

Bataineh et al.<sup>[2]</sup> reported that enucleation was rather difficult as the cyst wall was too thin and the mandibula thickness was too shallow. In our patient too, the mandibula was rather thin but enough support was present. Bataineh et al.<sup>[2]</sup> also reported that recurrence occurred because the cyst wall disintegrated due to its thinness and fragility, and residue was left due to improper cleaning of the bone cortex in the tours. We paid attention not to interfere with the cyst's entirety while removing it and we properly toured the bone cortex to its borders.

Many studies prefer marsupialization to avoid recurrence. Despite this, success has been reported in certain cases by using enucleation and marsupialisation. This technique is rather conservative. We did not prefer marsupialisation due to frequent recurrence. Irvine et al.,<sup>[7]</sup> prefer radical enucleation and bone grafting in large keratocysts. We did not prefer grafting as sufficient bone cortex remained for future prostheses after the radical block removal of the cyst and the touring.

Decompression and cystectomy are also useful methods of treatment. In a study with 12 cases, no recurrence was observed in the 7-17 years following decompression and cystectomy.<sup>[9]</sup> The disadvantage of the method is the need for two-stage surgery and the prolonged treatment time. We therefore did not use this technique in our case.

Dammer et al.<sup>[5]</sup> preferred simple excision in small COC and radical excision reaching as far as normal tissue in large COC. Similarly, we performed excision and touring without destroying the entirety of the cystic wall both mucosal and to the boundaries of undamaged bone. In spite of all this, recurrence may be seen even 20-40 years after the treatment.<sup>[10]</sup>

In this study, we employed the intraoral approach to treat a large COC without using any extra techniques, destroying the entirety of the cyst, placing a bone graft in the mandibula or damaging the cosmetic appearance and mandibular chewing function of the patient.

There is much research and debate concerning the formation, growth and treatment of odontogenic calcifying keratocysts. Histopathologically, it is typical to display 'ghost cells'. The use of imaging methods in treatment, undertaking biopsies and choosing appropriate surgical techniques are important factors in avoiding recurrence. This type of treatment does not affect the chewing function as much as surgical treatment with grafting. The surgical method is also important for the life quality of the patient. In our case, no recurrence was seen in the clinical follow-up for two years after the operation. This means that odontogenic cyst treatment is possible without grafting. This finding may imply that grafts or mandibular prosthesis implantations may not be necessary in the surgical treatment of COC. In this

way, graft resorption or implant complications may be avoided.

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