

THREE LOWER LIP SINUSES WITH CONGENITAL BANDS HOLDING UPPER AND LOWER JAW TOGETHER IN A CASE OF BILATERAL CLEFT LIP AND PALATE

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SUMMARY

A case of congenital fibrous band holding upper and lower jaw together along with lower lip sinuses in a case of bilateral cleft lip and palate is presented.

(Key Words : Mandibular lip pits, Gum adhesions.)

Case Report

A two years old female child with bilateral cleft lip was seen in our out-patients department with the complaints of inability to open the mouth. There was no family history of cleft lip and palate. Her elder brother 6 years old had no abnormality.



Fig. 1. Showing photograph of three lower lip sinuses.

On examination, she had bilateral cleft of lip with protruding pre-maxilla and had three lower lip sinuses (Fig. 1). One to the right and other to the left of the midline and the third one was on an elevated papilla near the left commissure of the lower lip (shown by arrow mark.) Intra oral examination revealed the presence of a complete cleft palate and two sagittal bands on either sides holding the upper and lower jaw together to

such an extent that a finger could be introduced into the mouth with difficulty (Fig. 2).

Radiological investigation did not reveal any bony fusion or abnormality of the temporo mandibular joints. The whitish bands were excised under Ketamine hydrochloride anesthesia. Following excision, the mouth could be opened up easily and bilateral cleft lip was repaired. Histology of the bands revealed only fibrous tissue. Repair of the cleft palate and the two sinuses would be undertaken in due course of time.

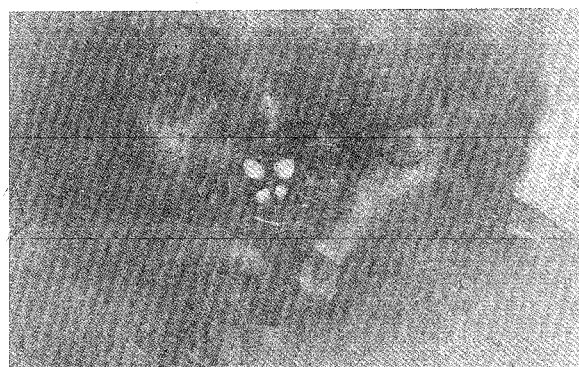


Fig. 2. Photograph showing the whitish fibrous bands.

Discussion

Congenital lower lip sinuses or pits are rare abnormalities. (Mustarde 1979). Review of literature shows that unilateral and bilateral lower lip

sinuses has been documented recently by Ratcliff and Milling (1989). But three sinuses, one on the either side of midline and one near the commissure along with two sagittal bands holding both jaws on either side in a case of bilateral cleft lip and palate is very rare indeed. We could not find any reference regarding documentation of the presence of fibrous congenital bands and their

association with multiple lower lip sinuses. No embryological explanation of these congenital fibrous bands has been reported in the literature. We feel the bands could be the result of mesodermal communications between the upper and the lower jaw which failed to disappear during later stages of the development.

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