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### RESEARCH ARTICLE

#### ORAL HAMARTOMA- A REVIEW

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#### Abstract

The majority of oral diseases present as growths and masses of varied cellular origin. Such masses may include simple hyperplasia, hamartoma, choristoma, teratoma, benign or malignant neoplasms. The distinguishing features of hamartomatous lesions are not certain, and often these non-neoplastic masses are indiscreetly denoted as neoplasms without weighing their pathology or biological behaviour. Essentially, understanding the dynamics of each of these disease processes forms an integral part of the appropriate treatment planning.

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#### Introduction:-

The term hamartoma is derived from the Greek word "hamartia" referring to a defect or an error. It was originally coined by Albrecht in 1904 to denote developmental tumourlike malformations.<sup>1</sup>

It can be defined as a non-neoplastic, unifocal/multifocal, developmental malformation, comprising a mixture of cytologically normal mature cells and tissues which are indigenous to the anatomic location, showing disorganized architectural pattern with predominance of one of its components. The borders with the surrounding tissues are typically ill-defined, merging with surrounding tissues. The occurrence of multiple hamartomas in the same patient is often referred as hamartomatosis or pleiotropic hamartoma.<sup>2</sup>

#### Hamartoma

Tumour-like malformations characterized by the presence of particular histologic tissues in improper proportions or distribution, with a prominent excess of one type of tissue.<sup>3</sup>

Tumour-like malformation in which the tissues of a particular part of the body are arranged haphazardly, usually with an excess of one or more of its components.<sup>1</sup>

#### Characteristic Features

1. Usually congenital

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2. The tissues present are specific to the part from which it arises.
3. Growth is co-ordinated with that of surrounding tissues
4. Stops after adolescence
5. No tendency toward excessive growth.

### Difference between Hamartoma and Benign tumours

The distinction between a hamartoma and a benign neoplasm may not always be easy to make, but consideration of the history, clinical findings, and histopathologic features can usually allow a diagnosis to be established<sup>6</sup>.

Hamartoma	Benign neoplasm
Present at birth	Develop in later life
Growth in concert with patient	Autonomously
Mixture of mature tissue types	Usually composed of only one tissue element

### Classification Of Hamartomas

#### ❖ Odontogenic Origin

- Dens Evaginatus
- Dens Invaginatus
- Odontoma
- Periapical Cemental Dysplasia
- Adenomatoid Odontogenic Hamartoma
- Squamous Odontogenic Tumour
- Ameloblastic Fibro-Odontoma

#### ❖ Non – Odontogenic Origin

##### Osseous lesions

- Tori
- Fibrous dysplasia

##### Pigmented lesions

- Melanocytic nevi

##### Vascular lesions

- Hemangioma
- Lymphangioma
- Glomustumour

##### Adipose tissue origin

- Angiomyolipomatosis

##### Syndromes associated

- Cowden syndrome
- Peutz-Jeghers Syndrome
- Maffucci's Syndrome

##### Others

- Epstein pearl
- Bohn's nodules
- Granular cell epulis
- Castleman's Disease

### Hamartomas Of Non-Odontogenic Origin

#### Osseous Lesions

**TORI:** They are usually located at the longitudinal ridge of the half palatine, on the union of the palatine apophysis of the maxillae or on the internal side of the horizontal branch of the jaw.

#### Fibrous Dysplasia:

Fibrous dysplasia is a benign developmental disorder of the bone-forming mesenchyme in which normal bone is replaced by abnormal fibrous tissue that contains small, abnormally arranged bone trabeculae.

#### Pigmented Lesions

##### Melanocytic Nevi:

Oral melanotic nevi are benign tumors of melanocytes. Melanocytic nevi are uncommon lesions of the oral cavity.

#### Vascular Origin

##### Hemangioma:

Hemangioma is a benign proliferation of endothelial cells. It presents as a red macula, papule or nodule depending on the congestion degree and on how deep it is in the tissue.

##### Lymphangioma:

The lymphangiomas is a benign hamartomatous hyperplasia of lymphatic malformation characterized by excessive proliferation of the lymphatic vessels.

##### Glomus Tumour:

It usually appears as a solitary painful nodule, although some arising in childhood are multiple, sometimes familial and usually painless.

**Adipose Tissue Origin****Angiomyolipomatous Hamartomas:**

They are composed of mature adipose tissue, blood vessels showing variable sizes and muscle fibers in a fibrous connective tissue.

**Peutz-Jeghers Syndrome**

It is an autosomal dominantly inherited disorder characterized by intestinal hamartomatous polyps in association with mucocutaneous melanocytic macules.

**Maffucci's Syndrome:**

It is a nonhereditary syndrome characterized by early development of enchondromas and various soft tissue tumors, predominantly hemangioma.

**Epstein's Pearls:**

Bohn's nodules were originally described in 1866 as remnants of mucous gland tissue found on the buccal or lingual aspects of the dental ridges.

**Granular Cell Epulis :**

The congenital granular cell epulis (CE) is a benign tumor arising from the alveolar ridges of newborns and composed of nests of cells with granular cytoplasm set in a prominent vasculature.

**Castleman Disease (CD):**

It is a disease of lymph nodes and related tissues; rare disorder characterized by non-cancerous (benign) growths (tumors) that may develop in the lymph node tissue throughout the body (i.e., systemic disease).<sup>5</sup>

**Nasal Chondromesenchymal Oral Hamartoma (NCMH)**

Nasal chondromesenchymal hamartoma (NCMH) is a benign mass lesion of the nasal cavity that usually presents in young infants and children. The characteristic morphology includes a proliferation of mesenchymal and chondroid or cartilaginous elements.

**Conclusion:-**

Oral and maxillofacial Hamartomas comprised a group of lesions with different source of tissue origin. Clinically such lesions may show aggressive but its histopathological correlation reveals the true entity. Such Hamartomatous lesions of oral & maxillofacial region should be segregated from other benign & malignant neoplasm of this region. Oral hamartomas are unique presentations of the head and neck region. Nevertheless, the criteria to delineate hamartomas from other similar masses are ambiguous. To conclude, hamartomas should promptly be included in the differential diagnosis of the tumours of oral cavity, essentially the paediatric tumors, to avoid aggressive treatment and morbidity.

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