

Management of Riga-Fede disease: A Case Report

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Abstract

Riga-fede disease is a rare pediatric condition in which chronic lingual ulceration results from repetitive trauma. Ventral surface of tongue is often the most common site affected. The natal and neonatal teeth have often been reported to cause ulceration on the ventral surface of the tongue in neonates and infants. In the present case report 20 days Old female infant presented by parents to the department of endodontic dentistry with Chief complain of an ulcerated area on the ventral surface of tongue, and difficulty in Suckling. Clinical examination revealed a tooth with sharp incisor edge and grade two Mobility. The ventral surface of the tongue showed a 5 × 8 mm ulcer extending from under border of the tongue to lingual frenulum. Feeding and nutrition of the baby was getting affected. Conservative treatment was not effective and was causing delay in the healing In the present case, the extraction of neonatal teeth was selected as treatment of choice, which gave improvement and normalization of feeding. At the follow-up, we confirmed that the lesion was resolved and infant was feeding normally.

Keywords: Riga-fede disease; Natal teeth; Neonatal teeth; Ulcerated lesion; Saudi arabia

Introduction

Riga-Fede disease first described by Antonio Riga in 1881, with subsequent histological examinations by Francesco Fede in 1890 [1], is a rare pediatric condition in which chronic lingual ulceration results from repetitive trauma. Ventral surface of tongue is often the site affected [2] Presentation appears to be bimodal, coinciding with natal (present at birth) or neonatal teeth (erupting during the first 30 days of life), and eruption of the primary teeth. Classification into two discrete groups aids etiological identification. 'Early' cases (before six months of age) are related to natal or neonatal teeth, which often present with hypo plastic enamel underdeveloped roots, with resultant early mobility. 'Late' cases (six months of age and older) occurs with primary dentition, are frequently habitual, and may be related to neurological or developmental disorder.

Neonatal teeth or underlying neuro-developmental disorders, which include Down syndrome, Encephalopathy, microcephaly, cerebral palsy, are described as causative or associated factors [3]. Natal teeth are not common; the prevalence ranges from one in 2000 to 1 in 3000 live births and are commonly lower central incisors [4] it occurs in babies less than two years of age. Commonly ulcer is present on the tongue (60% of the lesions), but other areas such as lip, palate, gingiva, vestibular mucosa and floor of the mouth may be the ulcer site [5]. It is a benign mucosal ulcer [6]. However raised edges of Riga-Fede disease often resemble a malignant process. Alertness of this benign condition is important, as it will avoid excessive anxiety and biopsy [7-8]. Both sexes are equally affected. Differential diagnosis includes infective and neoplastic conditions. Histological diagnosis is required when the symptoms fail to resolve with standard management. Management extraction of natal teeth is recommended due to risk of aspiration or interference with breast-feeding.

Case Report

20 days old female infant presented by parents to the department of pedodontics dentistry with chief complain of ulcerated area on the ventral surface of tongue. The mother of the baby reported that there is difficulty in suckling and that there was an inappropriate and incomplete nursing. Clinical examination revealed a tooth with sharp incisal edge and grade two mobility. The ventral surface of the tongue showed a 5 × 8 mm ulcer extending from under border of the tongue to lingual frenulum (Figure 1). Baby was otherwise in good health. There was no regional lymphadenopathy. The intraoral mucosa revealed no other lesions. The family history was negative also for developmental disorders and congenital syndromes.



Figure 1: The ventral surface of the tongue showed a 5 × 8 mm ulcer extending from under border of the tongue to lingual frenulum.

A clinical diagnosis of Riga-Fede disease due to repetitive trauma resulting from to and fro movements of the tongue against anterior



Figure 2: The troubling tooth was removed under local anesthesia.



Figure 3: Follow-up revealed that child was feeding normally.



Figure 4: Ulcer healed.

natal teeth was made. Written informed consent was obtained from the patient's parents for publication of this case report and the accompanying images.

Conservative treatment showed slow healing. Thus extraction of tooth was chosen as treatment option for the rapid resolution of the lesion and for the limited risk of inadequate feed and nutrition intake. The troubling tooth was removed under local anesthesia (Figure 2). Follow-up revealed that child was feeding normally. The ulcer healed (Figures 3 and 4).

Discussion

In the present study the baby was 20 days old female. Literature reveals that less than 2 yrs is the frequent age at the presentation of Riga-Fede disease. Manouri P Senanayake [7] reported Riga-Fede disease in a 18 months old baby while Domingues CJ [4] reported two years old baby with Riga-Fede disease. In the present study the Ulcer was painful on palpation [9]. Similarly to the present study, The ulceration was painful in a case reported by Costacurta et al. [10] in present case report family history was negative for developmental disorders and congenital syndromes. Similar finding was reported by previous study [10].

The literature reveals that occasionally one in 2000 babies are born with one or two teeth (known as natal teeth) already visible in the gum [11].

In the present case only single tooth, with small ulcer 5 × 8 mm in diameter was found on the tongue. While, Costacurta et al. reported presence of two crowns of neonatal teeth with larger ulcer 13 mm in diameter [10].

In case of mild to moderate irritation of the tongue, conservative treatment such as smoothing the incisal edge with an abrasive instrument is advocated. Alternative a small increment of composite may be bonded to the incisal edge. Extraction of troubling tooth may be needed to alleviate feeding difficulties. In the present case, The extraction of neonatal teeth was selected as treatment of choice, which gave improvement and normalization of feeding.

Conclusion

Present case report revealed that RFD occurred in very young 20 days old baby without any associated syndrome the conservative treatment was not effective with delay in the healing. The extraction of neonatal teeth was selected as treatment of choice, which gave improvement and normalization of feeding. Early detection of RFD is desired to avoid, inadequate nutrition intake by the infant and growth retardation.

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