



Oral Surgery Quiz

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Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

A 12 years old boy presented with an unerupted lower right second molar.

On presentation, no overt pathology was found intra-orally. The gum was slightly swollen in the right retro-molar area (Fig. 1). OPG radiograph and CT showed a radio-opaque mass above the unerupted lower right second molar (Fig. 2, Fig. 3).

Questions:

1. What is your diagnosis?
2. What is the appropriate treatment for this lesion?

Answer to Oral Surgery Quiz

1. This is quite a typical presentation of a Complex Odontoma. Odontomas are known as mixed odontogenic tumours because they are composed of tissue that is of both epithelial and mesenchymal origin. These tissues become fully differentiated, resulting in deposition of enamel by ameloblasts and dentin by odontoblasts respectively. Although these cells and tissues appear normal, the architecture is defective. Odontomas are lesions of children and young adults; mostly discovered in the second decade of life. There are two general configurations. They may appear as numerous miniature or rudimentary teeth, in which case they are known as compound odontomas, or they may appear as amorphous conglomerations of hard tissue, as in this case, they are known as Complex Odontoma.
2. The treatment of choice is surgical enucleation. Recurrence is not a problem. Any associated unerupted tooth will need monitoring for their eruption. The unerupted tooth may require orthodontic traction for eruption or indicated for extraction if there is too much impaction as in this case (Fig.4).



Fig. 4

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