# Histopathological Study of Pericoronal Tissue and Radiological Evaluation of Various Position of Impacted Mandibular Third Molar

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### Abstract:

**Background:** Removal of impacted mandibular third molar is a common procedure performed in oral surgery. Indications for removal of the third molar have generated much discussion in dentistry. The presence of pericoronal pathosis is generally accepted reason for the extraction of impacted mandibular third molars. Radiographic pathology is usually defined as a pericoronal radiolucency measuring about 2.5 mm or larger in any dimension.

**Purpose:** This study aims to evaluate the histopathologic changes in radiographically normal dental follicles associated with various types of impacted mandibular third molars.

**Methods:** After extraction of 50 impacted mandibular third molars, dental follicle associated with extracted teeth was placed in 10% formalin solution. Histopathologic examination was done. The type of pathological changes was recorded based on histopahological reports.

**Results and conclusion:** 46% patients with impacted third molar had vertical position and 58% patients with impacted teeth showed 0.5 to 1.5mm pericoronal radiolucency. Enamel organ epithelium (EOE) and squamous lining, epithelial rest in connective tissue and epithelial rest in connective tissue were higher in mesioagnular tooth position. Maximum percentage of myxomatous change was recorded in mesioagnular tooth followed by horizontal tooth position. Epithelial hyperplasia and severe inflammation were more common in distoangular teeth. Epithelial lining was absent maximum in vertical impacted teeth.

Keywords: Dental follicle, impacted lower third molar, pericoronal pathology, pericoronal radiolucency

### Introduction

Most of the uperupted molars are covered by an pericoronal tissue composed of soft tissue. During extraction this pericoronal tissue removed surgically and the location of this tissue into tooth bearing area of the jaw indicates probable with both ectodermal and mesodermal components. <sup>1</sup> Deliberate retention of the impacted third molar, however caries a risk of squeal such as cyst formation, resoprtion of the root of second molar and tumour formaton<sup>2</sup>

Unerupted and impacted third molar were found in young age groups. These impacted third molars were associated with dental follicles or dental sac which was normal developmental structures that characteristically appear as thin semicircular radiolucencies around the teeth in radiographs.<sup>3</sup> A pericoronal space of greater than 2.5mm on an intraoral radiograph and greater than 3mm on a rotational panoramic radiograph should be regarded as suspicious.<sup>4</sup> Pericoronal tissue of erupting third molar have propensity to undergo proliferation, neoplastic change or cause post-operative complications. Pericoronal tissue also showed pathological changes like dentigerous cysts,

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ISSN 2515-8260 Volume 07, Issue 10, 2020 odontogenic keratocyst and ameloblastoma which could be the health risks for the patients.<sup>5</sup> Therefore present study was carried out to determine the need for the routine removal of unerupted and impacted third molar on basis of of various histopathological changes associated with pericoronal tissue of impacted teeth.

#### **Material and Methods**

This study was carried out in 50 patients with impacted third molar attending Department of Oral Surgery and Oral Pathology Department Government Dental College and Hospital, Ahmedabad. In this study detailed clinical history was taken. Patients with signs of infection or enlarged tissue surrounding affected teeth were excluded from the study. Tobacco users, alcoholics, and those with systemic diseases that could affect the healing mechanisms were excluded. All the teeth included in the study were mandibular third molars.

The study was conducted after ethical clearance of institutional committee. Informed consent was taken from all the patients who were include in the study. Out of 50 patients, 25 patients were male and 25 patients were female with age range of 18 to 40 years. All these impacted third molar teeth were sent for radiographic examination with intraoral periapical radiographs. Width of the pericoronal space was determined to find out any correlation exists between histopathological changes of pericoronal tissue and radiographic width of the impacted teeth. According to radiographic width of pericoronal space patients were divided into three groups. Group 1 consists of impacted third molars with radiographic pericoronal width of 0.5mm to 1.5 mm. Group 2 consists of impacted third molars with radiographic pericoronal width of 1.5mm to 2.5mm. Group 3 consists of impacted third molars with radiographic pericoronal width of 2.5mm to 3.5mm.

Pericoronal tissues associated with impacted third molars were removed and sent for histopathological examination. These specimen were fixed in 10% solution of formaline for 24 hours. Processed routinely and embedded in paraffin. Blocks were prepared and section of 5 mircron thickness were cut using a microtome and stained with routine Hematoxylin and Eosin stains for the purpose of histopathological study. The sections of myxomatous change, which were stained with Hematoxylin and Eosin (H&E) stain were also stained with Alcain blue stain. Two oral pathologists, who were not aware of the result of the previous pathology reports and clinical status of the patients, blindly re- assessed each slide for the following histopathological parameters:

- Follicular epithelial lining
- Severity of epithelial inflammation (mild, moderate, and severe)
- epithelial rest in connective tissue
- myxomatous change in connective tissue
- Epithelial hyperplasia
- Presence of salivary gland

**Results:** Fifty impacted teeth were radiographically analyzed for pericoronal radiolucency. They are surgically removed and histophathological examination of impacted teeth was carried out. Radiographic findings were correlated for each patient with the histologic findings, and the data were analyzed.

## Table 1: Distribution of Patients with Impacted Third Molar according to age group and gender

Age(year)	Male		Female	Female		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	
15-20	4	50	4	50	8	16	
21-25	16	51.61	15	48.39	31	62	
26-30	4	50	4	50	8	16	
31-35	1	50	1	50	2	4	
36-40	0	0	1	100	1	2	
Total	25	50	25	50	50	100	

All patients were from 15-40 years age range. 8(16%) [4 male and 4 female] patients were from age group of 15-20 years, 31(62%)[16 male and 15 female] patients were from age group of 21-25 years, 8(16%)[4 male and 4 female] patients were from age group of 26-30 years, 2(4%)[1 male and 1 female] patients were of 31-35 years of age group and 1(2%)[1 male] patients were of 36-40 years age group. (Table 1)

Age	(in	Total		Tooth	Position						
Years)											
				Mesio	Mesioangular Distoangular Horizontal			Vertical			
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
15-20		8	16	0		2	25	1	12.5	5	67.5
21-25		31	62	9	29.03	3	9.68	5	16.12	14	45.17
26-30		8	16	2	25	2	25	1	12.5	3	37.5
31-35		2	4	1	50	0	0	1	50	0	0
36-40		1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	100
Total		50	100	12	24	7	14	8	16	23	46

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Table 2: Distribution of patients according to the age groups and	l tooth	position	of
impacted mandibular third molar		•	

Out of 50 patients with impacted third molar, 23(46%) had vertical impacted teeth, 12 (24%) had mesioangular impacted teeth, 8(16%) had horizontal impacted teeth and 7(14%) had distoangular impacted teeth.(Table 2)In all age group except 31-35 years of age group vertical impacted teeth were more common than other impacted teeth.

 Table 3: Distribution of various age groups and width of pericoronal radiographic width in patients with impacted third molar

Age Years)	(in	Tota	l	Radiog	Radiographic width of pericoronal tissue							
		0.5mm	0.5mm- 1.5mm		1.5mm-2.5mm		2.5mm-3.5mm					
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%			
15-20		8	16	5	62.5	0	22.58	3	37.5			
21-25		31	62	18	58.06	7	25	6	19.36			
26-30		8	16	4	50	2	50	2	25			
31-35		2	4	1	50	1		0	0			
36-40		1	2	1	100	0		0	0			
Total		50	100	29	58	10	20	11	22			

Out of 50 patients with impacted teeth, 29(58%) had pericoronal radiolucency of 0.5mm-1.5mm width of impacted teeth , 10(20%) had pericoronal radiolucency of 1.5mm-2.5mm width of impacted teeth and 11(22%) had pericoronal radiolucency of 2.5mm-3.5mm width of impacted teeth. (Table 3) In 15-20 years age group, 8 patients had pericoronal radiolucency of 0.5mm-1.5mm width of impacted teeth, 5 had pericoronal radiolucency of 0.5mm-1.5mm width of impacted teeth, 5 had pericoronal radiolucency of 0.5mm-1.5mm width of impacted teeth. In 21-25 years age group, 18 patients had pericoronal radiolucency of 0.5mm-1.5mm width of impacted teeth. In 21-25 years age group, 18 patients had pericoronal radiolucency of 0.5mm-1.5mm width of impacted teeth, 7 patients had pericoronal radiolucency of 1.5mm-2.5mm width of impacted teeth and 6 patients had pericoronal radiolucency of 0.5mm-1.5mm width of impacted teeth. In 26-30 years age group, 4 patients had pericoronal radiolucency of 0.5mm-1.5mm width of impacted teeth. In 26-30 years age group, 4 patients had pericoronal radiolucency of 0.5mm-1.5mm width of impacted teeth. In 26-30 years age group, 4 patients had pericoronal radiolucency of 0.5mm-1.5mm width of impacted teeth. In 26-30 years age group, 4 patients had pericoronal radiolucency of 0.5mm-1.5mm width of impacted teeth. In 31-35 years age group, 1 patients had pericoronal radiolucency of 0.5mm-1.5mm width of impacted teeth. In 31-35 years age group, 1 patients had pericoronal radiolucency of 0.5mm-1.5mm width of impacted teeth. In 36-40 years age group, 1 patient was included who had pericoronal radiolucency of 0.5mm-1.5mm width of impacted tooth. In 36-40 years age group, 1 patient was included who had pericoronal radiolucency of 0.5mm-1.5mm width of impacted tooth. (Table 3)

Table 4: Histopathologic changes according to the position of impacted third molar

Table 4. Instopathologic changes according to the position of impacted third motar								
	Mesioangular	Distoangular	Vertical	Horizontal	Total			
	(n=12)	(n=7)	(n=23)	(n=8)	(n=50)			
Follicular epithelial l	Follicular epithelial lining							
Epithelium absent	3(25%)	1(14.28%)	8(34.78%)	1(12.5%)	14(28%)			
EOE	1(8.33%)	1(14.28%)	3(13.04%)	2(25%)	7(14%)			
Squamous	2(16.66%)	3(42.8%)	8(34.78%)	3(37.5%)	16(32%)			
EOE+Squamous	6(50%)	2(28.57%)	3(13.04%)	2(25%)	13 (26%)			
Epithelial hyperplasi	Epithelial hyperplasia							
Present	8(66.66%)	5 (71.42%)	11(47.82%)	5(62.5%)	29(58%)			
Inflammation of Connective tissue								
Mild	8(66.66%)	0(0%)	8(34.78%)	2(25%)	18(36%)			

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Moderate	0(0%)	4(57.14%)	8(34.78%)	4(50%)	16(32%)			
Severe	4(33.33%)	3(42.85%)	7(30.43%)	2(25%)	16(32%)			
Epithelial Rest in Connective tissue								
Present	11(91.66%)	4(57.14%)	19(82.60%)	5(62.5%)	39(78%)			
Absent	1(8.33%)	3(42.85%)	4(17.39%)	3(37.5%)	11(22%)			
Myxomatous change	s in connective tis	sue						
Present	10(83.3%)	2(28.57%)	10(43.4%)	5(62.50%)	27(54%)			
Absent	2(16.6%)	5(71.43%)	13(56.52%)	3(37.50%)	23(46%)			
Salivary Gland								
Ductal hyperplasia	1(8.33%)	1(14.28%)	2(8.69%)	0	4(8%)			
Mucous acini	1(8.33%)	0	1(4.34%)	0	2(4%)			

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Out of 50 patients, 7(14%) patients had EOE, 16(32%) patients had squamous lining and 13(26%)had EOE and squamous lining while in 14(28%) patients follicular epithelial lining is absent. 27 out of 50(54%) patients with impacted teeth showed myxomatous changes in connective tissue. In 39(78%) patients out of 50 patients epithelial rests were present in connective tissue. In 29(58%) patients out of 50 patients epithelial hyperplasia were present in connective tissue. In 29(58%) patients showed mild inflammation in connective tissue and 16(32%) patients showed moderate and severe inflammation each. Salivary gland was found in 6 patients out of which 4 patients showed ductal hyperplasia and 1 patient showed mucous acini. (Table 4)

Out of 14(28%) patients with follicular epithelial lining absent, 8 patients had vertical impacted teeth, 3 patients had mesioangular impacted teeth. It was absent in both distoangular and vertical impacted teeth – 1 patient each. EOE maximum present 3 out of 7 patients in vertical impacted teeth. 8 patients with vertical impacted teeth, 3 patients with distoangular and horizontally impacted teeth and 2 patients with mesioangular impacted teeth showed squamous metaplasia. Epithelial hyperplasia is present in 71.42% distoangular (5 out of 7 teeth)impacted teeth followed by mesioangular impacted teeth (66.66%), horizontal impacted teeth (62.5%) and vertical impacted teeth (47.82%). Severe inflammation is present maximum in distoagnular teeth (42.85%) followed by mesioangular impacted teeth (30.43%) and horizontally impacted teeth (25%) respectively. Moderate inflammation is more commonly present in distoangular (57.14%) and horizontal (50%) impacted teeth. (Table 4)

Myxomatous changes in connective tissue is more commonly present in mesioagnular impacted teeth (83.3%) followed by horizontally impacted teeth (62.50%), vertical impacted teeth (43.4%), and distoangular impacted teeth (28.57%) respectively. Epithelial rest in connective tissue is more commonly present in mesioangular impacted teeth (91.66%) followed by vertical impacted teeth (82.60%), horizontally impacted teeth (62.5%) and distoangular impacted teeth (57.14%) respectively. Ductal hyperplasia is present in 8.69% vertically impacted teeth, 14.28% distoangular impacted teeth and 8.3% mesioagnular impacted teeth. Mucous acini is present in mesioagnular and vertical impacted teeth-1 tooth each. (Table 4)

### **Discussion:**

The third molar region has the highest incidence of developmental anomalies and the odontogenic cysts and epithelial odontogenic tumours which illustrate the potential of the dental lamina in this location, therefore there is general agreement by dentists and dental specialist that the presence of disease associated with impacted 3<sup>rd</sup> molar teeth is an indication for their removal which are the most common teeth to be impacted in the oral cavity. Its prophylactic removal remains always controversial. There is currently very little scientific evidence to support routine removal of impacted 3<sup>rd</sup> molar teeth for prevention of disease. If there is disturbance during eruption of teeth, it is apparent that certain pathologic changes occur in the covering follicular tissue. <sup>6</sup>

Stanley et al (1988) reported that some type of pathological change can be expected eventually in approximately 12% of an impacted third molar population and 1.82% of the general population and because of this reappraisal of routine removal of symptomatic third molar might be indicated. In view of this the present study was carried out to determine the pathologic latency of pericoronal tissue of impacted third molar.<sup>3</sup>

The highest incidence of impacted third molar in the age groups 21-25 year which is 62% in present study which is in accordance of study done by Taiseer Hussain et al<sup>7</sup> who also found largest number (39%) of impacted mandibular third molars were extracted from patients between 20 and 25 years of age. In contrast to that Rakprasitkaul (2001)<sup>8</sup> reported highest incidence of impacted third molar in 11-20 years of age and was 42.3% which was not correlated with the present study. In the present study, vertical impaction was found in 46% patients, mesioagnular impaction in 24% patients, horizontal impaction in 16% patients and distoangular impaction in 14% patients. Similar results also seen in study done by Morris and Jerman (1971)<sup>9</sup> found vertical impaction in

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54.5% patients, followed by mesioagnular impaction in 27.7% patients. In contrast to present study, Eliasson et al (1989)<sup>10</sup> noticed predominant horizontal position in 41% patients, Anand et al<sup>11</sup> noticed predominant mesioagnular position in 57% patients and M Eshghpour<sup>12</sup> who reported 48.67% patients with mesioagnular impacted teeth. Sutas Rakprasitkul<sup>8</sup> found in his study that the incidence of pathologic conditions was higher than that of normal conditions in all third molar positions and in younger patients, normal tissue was more commonly found, but in patients older than 20 years, the incidence of pathologic tissue was higher than the incidence of normal tissue.

In the present study 58% patients are having impacted teeth with 0.5-1.5mm width of pericoronal radiolucency followed by 22% patients with impacted teeth with 2.5mm-3.5mm width and 20% patients with impacted teeth with 1.5mm-2.5mm width. Only 1 patient is present with 1.5-3.5mm width in age group of 31-40 years which suggests that as the age advances the pericoronal radiolucency does not increase with age. Eliasson et al found that the relative frequency age of such pericoronal changes remain constant.<sup>10</sup>

In the present study 14% patients have EOE, 32% patients have squamous lining and 26% patients have EOE and squamous lining, in contrast to study done by Conklin and Stafne (1949)<sup>13</sup> reported squamous lining in 64% follicle which was double than the present finding. EOE with squmaous lining is present 50% of mesioagnular impacted teeth (6 impacted teeth out of 12 impacted teeth). Presence of epithelium was present in Forty-five (90%) specimen and only 5 (10%) specimens were devoid of epithelium, 31 (68.9%) showed REE and 14 (31.1%) showed SSE in study done by Nagoosh Haidry et al.<sup>14</sup>Epithelial hyperplasia is also common in mesioangular and distoangular impacted teeth. Presence of epithelium was present in 87.8% patients, squamous epithelium was present in 51.2% patients, reduce enamel epithelium was present in 36.5% patients and epithelial hyperplasia was present in 14.6% patients in study done by Vijyalakshmi et al.<sup>15</sup> Mild inflammation is found in 66.66% mesioangular impacted teeth, moderate inflammation is found in 57.14% distoagnular impacted teeth and 50% of horizontally impacted teeth. Severe inflammation is found more common- 42.85% of distoangular impacted teeth Inflammation was present in 34 (68%) cases and was absent in 16 (32%) cases in study done by Nagoosh Haidry. et al.<sup>14</sup> Inflammation was found in 24.3% patients and myxomatous tissue was present in study done by Vijayalakshmi et al.<sup>15</sup> presence of lining epithelium was noted in 87.8% of the follicles. Of this, reduced enamel epithelium was present in 36.5% (out of 41 follicles) of the follicles and absence of epithelium was found in 12.19% in study done by Vijayalaxmi et al.<sup>15</sup>Adav et al. found a significant relationship between increase in patients age and inflammation of dental follicle. It seems that the longer the follicular tissue remains in bone, larger the possibility of an inflammatory reaction within connective tissue.<sup>14</sup>85 cases (58%) showed fibrous or myxomatous connective tissue in study done by Anand et al.<sup>12</sup> Damante and Fleury noted that the loss of epithelium may have resulted from the ameloblast cell adherence to the enamel cuticle, which detaches from parts of the specimen during surgical treatment. A Esen et al noted that when asymptomatic impacted third molars become symptomatic, not only squamous metaplasia but also severity of inflammation significantly increasein their study.<sup>17</sup> Cabbar et al.<sup>18</sup> also reported that the mesenchymal cell inflammation upregulate the cell turnover of odontogenic epithelium and lead to proliferation, and they concluded that inflammation might be effective insquamous changes. Squamous metaplasia was present in 30 out of 83 patients; mesenchymal inflammation was present in 82% patients (68 out of 83 patients) with severe inflammation in 40% patients (33 out of 83 Patients) and mild inflammation in 42% patients (35 out of 83 Patients) in study done by A Ensen et al. John Adelsperger et al<sup>19</sup> reported 34% specimen showed squamous metaplasia suggestive of cystic change equivalent to that found in dentigerous cysts. David Moraes et al <sup>20</sup> reported in their study that transformation of the reduced epithelium into squamous epithelium with maturation of the follicle and consequently with increasing age was statistically significantin study.Curran et al. concluded that any follicle with squamous epithelium should be regarded as a dentigerous cyst.<sup>21</sup> Myxomatous changes were present in 78% patients (65 out of 83 patients) ) in study done by A Ensen et al.<sup>1</sup>

When the diameter of a pericoronal space is greater than 2.5 mm on an intraoral radiograph and greater than 3 mm on a panoramic radiograph, pathosis is suggested, and if the radiopaque border, representing the surrounding cortical plate, is not well-defined, this is also a sign of pathologic change. The differential diagnosis of pericoronal radiolucencies include enlarged follicular space, dentigerous cyst, odontogenic keratocyst, unicystic ameloblastoma, adenomatoid odontogenic tumour, calcifying cystic odontogenic tumour, and ameloblastic fibroma. Other rare lesions such as odontogenic fibroma, odontoma in premineralized stage, and odontogenic fibroma may also be encountered as pericoronal radiolucencies. Anand et al concluded in their study that unerupted third molars with pericoronal radiolucency of <2.5 mm should be retained since they do not exhibit cyst formation microscopically.<sup>11</sup>

## **Conclusion:**

Further clinical studies are required on large sample size to confirm these findings. It is suggested for clinical and radiographic follow-up of impacted third molars. It is also recommended that histopathological analysis of the follicle should be conducted on all surgically extracted third molar teeth.

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