

Congenital epulis in neonates: A literature review

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Congenital granular cell tumor or congenital epulis or neumann's tumor is a rare benign neoplastic gingival 9,10. This nodule occurs along the alveolar ridge in neonates with predominance in the maxillary region 7,9. It is, in most cases, a single submucosal mass¹⁰. Nonetheless, multiple lesions can occur, even if rare¹². This paper presents an objective literature review about congenital granular cell lesions or congenital epulis in newborns. The methodology used was an analysis of articles published originally in English in the last five years in humans with reference to the index base MedLine. Twelve articles have been selected to produce this literature review. After the research it was found that this tumor's etiology is uncertain and it is more prevalent in females than in males 9,11. The congenital epulis diagnosis is based on clinical, histological and immunohistochemical characteristics such as lamina which constitute fibrous connective tissue containing a granular eosinophilic cytoplasm^{1,3,7,8}. In this framework, this rare tumor's differential diagnosis is the granular cell tumor (GCT)^{7,8}. This lesion can be diagnosed in a prenatal exam called fetal magnetic resonance imaging 3,7. Thereby, a multidisciplinary team will be in the delivery room to plan further excision when this mass is identified in the fetus 3,9. Furthermore, small lesions can be treated with conservative treatment 5,6,12. However, if the lesion has a larger size and interferes with the patient's feeding or breathing, surgical intervention is highly recommended 2,3,4,5,6,7,9,10,11,12. Additionally, there are reports in the literature of spontaneous regression of the lesion 2,12; nevertheless, there are no reports of recurrence of the neoplastic gingival growth. Finally, we can conclude that this rare tumor's evolution is benign and affects newborns. In this context, further research is necessary to determine the granular cell tumor origin.

Biography

Maria Clara Fernandes Ribeiro Dantas is an undergraduate student in Odontology in the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences of Juiz de Fora - Suprema, Juiz de Fora, Minas Gerais, Brazil. Her research topics include Pediatric Dentistry and Pathology. She won one award in the Conference of Dentistry in the Federal University of Piauí related to her work research about the Riga-Fede disease in Neonates. In this framework, she also did six presentations about Pediatric Dentistry and collaborated as a co-author of other four research projects presented at Brazilian Conferences.