DENTIGEROUS CYST
Second most common (17%)

• Developmental.
• Odontogenic.

Definition

DENTIGEROUS CYST: A Cyst which:
• 1) Contains the crown of an unerupted/partially erupted tooth AND
• 2) Has its epithelial lining attached at the CEJ.

- Commonest on Lower 8, upper 3, upper 8.
- Present 10-30 years, equal sex incidence.
- Reduced enamel epithelium separates from enamel to form the cyst cavity.
- Beware false dentigerous relationships.
  - Especially lower 8’s.
  - Lower PMs.
  - Any teeth that struggle to erupt into the oral cavity.

- SITE: Around a crown of an unerupted tooth (as this is where the epithelium is).
- SIZE: Several cm in diameter.
- SHAPE: Unilocular.
- OUTLINE: Well defined & Corticated
- RELATIVE RADIOLUCENCY: Uniformly Radiolucent.
- Unilocular radiolucency at apex of 2nd molar – NOT a radicular cyst as this tooth is vital.

Dentigerous Cyst Histology

- In early stages looks like Reduced Enamel Epithelium (REE) – 2 cells thick.
- Gradually thickens to form a Stratified Non-Keratinised Epithelium.
- If inflamed, looks like a Radicular cyst.
  - Squamous epithelium – multiple layers thick

How do Dentigerous Cysts Grow?

- Probably in the same way as inflammatory cysts.
- They have an internal hydrostatic pressure.
- Inflammation is probably important.
- Growth pattern is as for radicular cysts and this aids diagnosis.

Example

- SITE: Radiolucency around the crown of an unerupted tooth.
- SIZE: Several cm in diameter.
- SHAPE: Unilocular.