

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.



REE would be sitting around the tooth. Fluid collects between the crown of the tooth and the REE → continues to expand to form a cyst. Growth continues as more fluid accumulates. These types of cysts should be sent in for examination.

- **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 RADIOLOGENCY:** 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.