

## Odontogenic myxoma: Literature review

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### Abstract

The odontogenic myxoma (OM) is a locally aggressive and infiltrating benign tumor that originates from the odontogenic ectomesenchyme. It represents the third most prevalent odontogenic tumor. It presents a predilection for the female sex, affecting the first and fourth decade of life. Clinically it is asymptomatic, however, it can generate facial asymmetry, causing an expansion of the bone cortices, dental displacement, root resorption. Radiographically, odontogenic myxoma generally presents a multilocular radiographic pattern that can vary in appearance, including "soap bubble", "honeycomb" and "tennis racket" or "sunbeam" shapes. In histological studies, the odontogenic myxoma is observed to be composed of stellate to spindle-shaped cells wrapped in an abundant extracellular matrix rich in mucin, without encapsulation and that may contain epithelial residues. Treatment is variable and corresponds to the size of the lesion. Well, there are conservative treatments focused on curettage or radical treatments and in the same way the recurrence of this lesion will depend on the type of treatment. The objective of this article is to evaluate demographic aspects such as age; location; prevalence; clinical, radiographic and histological analysis; treatment, results and recurrence.

**Key words:** Odontogenic myxoma; Odontogenic myxofibroma; Oral myxoma; Odontogenic tumor.

### 1. Introduction

Odontogenic myxoma (OM) is a locally aggressive and infiltrative benign tumor that originates from the odontogenic ectomesenchyma, it is rare, according to the literature it manifests from 3 to 20%, however, it is considered the third most common odontogenic tumor after odontomas and ameloblastomas [1]. The World Health Organization (WHO) describes OM as a benign odontogenic neoplasm, characterized by stellate and spindle cells dispersed in an abundant myxoid extracellular matrix. They call it "odontogenic myxofibroma" when an increased amount of collagen is evident [2]. Patients mostly affected belong to the second and fourth decade of life, there is no sex predilection and it is most frequently observed in the mandible [1]. This tumor has an incidence of approximately 0.07/1,000,000 inhabitants, represents about 3.3-15.7% of odontogenic tumors in adults and about 8.5-11.6% of odontogenic tumors in children [3].

OM manifests variable radiological and clinical presentations, so its diagnosis should be exhaustive based on clinical, radiological and histopathological examinations. Clinically, OM is characterized by slow growth that can cause local bone destruction, cortical expansion, soft tissue infiltration, resorption and tooth movement. The evolution of OM is characterized as slow, insidious and asymptomatic [4].

Radiographically its appearance is somewhat variable, as this can range from unilocular to multilocular radiolucency with multiple loculation patterns (4) that may or may not have clearly defined borders [1]. OMs containing multilocular radiographic patterns can vary in appearance, among these variations include "soap bubble", "honeycomb" and "tennis racket", "sunburst" or "sunburst" shapes that may suggest destructive and expansive behavior of this lesion [4].

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In histological studies the odontogenic myxoma is observed to be composed of stellate to spindle-shaped cells wrapped in an abundant extracellular matrix rich in mucin, without encapsulation and that may contain epithelial debris; in some cases the matrix may present collagen bundles that give it the denomination of myxofibroma [1, 4].

Treatment is variable and depends on the size of the lesion. There are conservative treatments focused on curettage and enucleation of the lesion, although the most widely accepted approach is radical resection with wide margins to avoid high recurrence [5-7]. The present article aims to evaluate demographic aspects such as age; location; prevalence; clinical, radiographic and histologic analysis; treatment, outcome and recurrence.

## 2. Materials and methods

### 2.1. Inclusion and exclusion criteria

A total of 32 articles were included in the present review based on the level of evidence including systematic reviews, literature reviews with case reports, and case series. Each of these had to have a full-text article in English or Spanish. On the other hand, we excluded articles published outside the last 20 years, and articles such as expert opinions, experimental studies and editorials, based on the levels of scientific evidence (Figure 1).

### 2.2. Search strategy

An extensive electronic search of scientific articles published between January 2002 through December 2021 was performed in PubMed, SciELO, Proquest, and Google Scholar databases. The following search terms were used: "oral myxoma", "odontogenic myxoma" and "odontogenic myxofibroma". (Figure 1). In addition, duplicate articles were removed manually and using the bibliographic manager (Zotero).

### 2.3. Data extraction and evaluation

Only data relevant to the study were extracted such as: demographic data (age, sex), prevalence, location (maxilla or mandible), clinical, radiographic and histopathologic features, its treatment (conservative or radical) and recurrence rate.

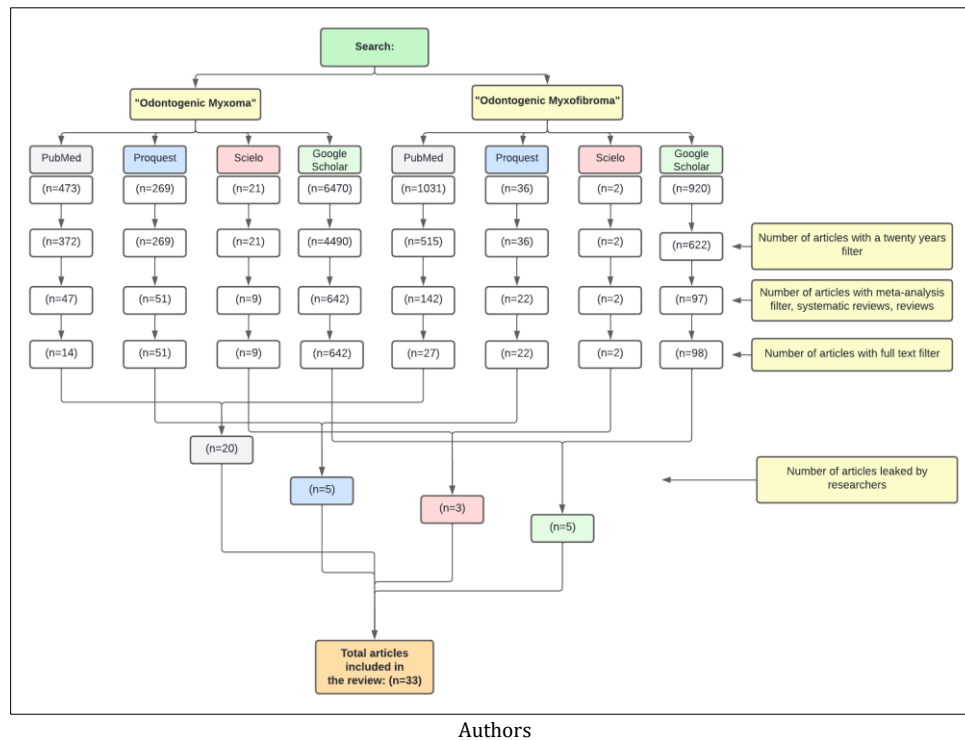


Figure 1 Search tree

### 3. Results

#### 3.1. Age and sex

The results of a large number of studies were compared with regard to demographic characteristics such as age and sex. Regarding age, the usual age of onset of OM is considered to be between the first and fourth decade of life [1, 5, 8]. However, it is also usual to find it between the second and third decade of life [8-10]. The information obtained is variable. According to Kawase et al. 50% of the cases correspond to the male sex, and 50% to the female sex, showing a 1:1 ratio between both sexes [12]. However, Sohrabi et al. indicate that women are the most affected with a ratio of 1.5:1 [4].

#### 3.2. Prevalence

The prevalence of OM is variable depending on the geographic area, as in America, Asia and Europe frequencies from 0.5% to 17% have been reported [8, 13, 14], while in African countries we found prevalences of 10.3% and 19% [15]. The prevalence rates of MO are relatively low, however, OM is considered to be the third most common odontogenic tumor [16, 17].

#### 3.3. Location

The literature demonstrates a clear prevalence of OM in the posterior mandibular sector [1, 6, 12, 13, 18, 19]. Authors such as Tavakoli et al. indicate a 3:4 maxillary-mandibular ratio [7]. Although it is not exclusive to this area.

#### 3.4. Clinical features

The lesion initially manifests painless slow growth with expansion of the cortical bone [6], although more aggressive behavior may also be evidenced; causing pain, ulcers, paresthesia, displacement and resorption of adjacent structures such as teeth and bone [5, 20]. According to Sohrabi et al. and Leong et al. 75% of OM present signs of cortical perforation, 20% present root resorption and 58.6% manifest tumefaction causing facial asymmetry [4, 21].

#### 3.5. Radiographic features

The radiographic patterns of OM are well known for their characteristic appearance. Radiographic patterns range from unilocular (Figure 2) to multilocular, the latter being the most prevalent [16, 22, 23]. White et al; adds that multilocular patterns are characterized by a "honeycomb", "soap bubble" or "tennis racket" appearance [24].



Image courtesy. Sarmiento Sánchez L. . OM CBCT sagittal view [Universidad de Cuenca].2023 [Cited January 5, 2023].

**Figure 2** Tomographic study, sagittal OM view. There is a well-defined unilocular radiolucent image in the posterior sector of the mandible associated with a retained and displaced dental organ, compatible with Odontogenic Myxoma

#### 3.6. Histopathology

OM are generally made up of loosely arranged spindle or stellate cells with long fibrillar processes that are intertwined within remnants of quiescent odontogenic epithelium, embedded in an abundant myxoid or mucoid extracellular matrix

abundant in hyaluronic acid (Figure 3) [4, 8, 9, 14, 16, 25, 26]. In addition, it is common to find calcifications, bone trabeculae and blood capillaries arranged within the mucoid material; and in certain cases large amounts of collagen are observed arranged in the form of fibers, which gives the characteristic name of myxofibroma or fibromyxoma (Figure 4) [6, 8, 18, 27].

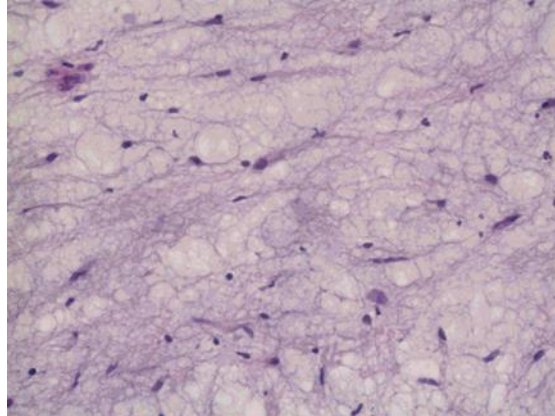


Image courtesy. Torres Calle M. OM histology with 400x magnification [Universidad de Cuenca].2023 [Cited January 5, 2023].

**Figure 3** Conventional OM histologic image. Freely arranged spindle cells are observed, showing long intertwining fibrillar processes, enveloped in an abundant myxoid extracellular matrix located in the extensive extracellular spaces. There are few collagenous bundles or fibers (H&E 400x stain).

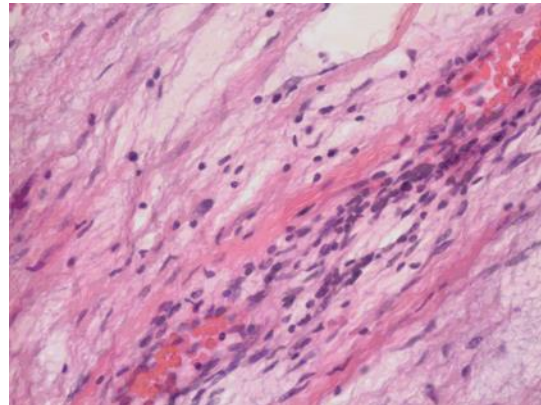


Image courtesy. Torres Calle M. OM histology with 400x magnification [Universidad de Cuenca].2023 [Cited January 5, 2023].

**Figure 4** Histologic image of myxofibroma. Spindle cells are observed freely arranged in an abundant myxoid extracellular matrix with abundant collagenous bundles or fibers (H&E 400x stain)

### 3.7. Treatment

There are several treatment modalities for OM ranging from conservative surgery which could be either enucleation, curettage or curettage [5, 18], to more invasive treatments such as segmental resection or in bloc resection [16]. Treatment with radiotherapy should not be considered as a standard therapy [28].

### 3.8. Recurrence

Recurrence of this tumor is high, with percentages fluctuating between different values as various authors indicate a recurrence rate of 25% [4, 5, 9, 16, 24, 28].

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## 4. Discussion

Authors such as Dotta et al., Shivashankara et al., Bisla et al., and others consider the usual age of onset of OM to be between the first and fourth decade of life [1, 5, 8, 25, 29, 30]. However, Chrcanovic et al., Manne et al., Sohrabi et al. and other authors indicate that there is a greater predilection for onset between the second and third decade of life [4, 9-11, 13, 18, 21, 22, 24, 28]. On the other hand, Wang et al. indicate a higher incidence in patients in the second and fifth

decade of life [23]; and Hammad et al. extend the age range of onset from the first year to 73 years [31]. Regarding sex predilection, Kawase et al. indicate that 50% of the cases correspond to the male sex and 50% to the female sex, showing a 1:1 ratio between the sexes; which corresponds to the results of White et al. and Priya et al. which indicate that there is no established sex predilection [12, 24, 28]. On the other hand, Godishala et al. report a clear female sex predilection [32]. This is in agreement with other authors such as Sohrabi et al. who report that females are the most affected with a 1.5:1 ratio [4]. Likewise, Wang et al. obtains a female predilection with a 2:1 ratio compared to the male sex [23]. Saalim et al. report a higher ratio of 2.2:1 for the female sex [29]. Titinchi et al. show the highest ratio of 2.6:1 for the male sex [25].

**Table 1** Results of the review variables: age, sex, prevalence, location

| Number  | Author               | Year | Age                         | Sex             | prevalence   | Location   |
|---------|----------------------|------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--|--|
| 1       | Dotta et al.         | 2020 | Range 8-40 years            | F               | -  | Posterior Mandibular (59.48%)<br>Anterior Mandibular (16.23%).<br>Posterior Maxilla: (52.28%), Anterior Maxilla (19.65%) |
| 2       | El-Naggar            | 2017 | -                           | -               | -  | -  |
| 3       | Tapia et al.         | 2021 | third decade                | F               | 0.07/1,000,000 - 3.3-15.7% adults<br>8.5-11.6% in children | General mandibular and maxillary in children under 2 years of age  |
| 4       | Sohrabi et al.       | 2021 | Between 23 and 30 years old | F 1.5:1         | 3%-6% total neoplasms                                      | Mandibular: posterior body, ramus and angle.   |
| 5       | Shivashankara et al. | 2017 | 10 - 40 years               | F 2:1           | 0.5% to 19%  | mandibular   |
| 6       | Banasser et al.      | 2020 | Range 6-84 years            | F               | 39.50%   | Mandibular 60.5%, Maxillary 39.4%  |
| 7       | Tavakoli et al.      | 2019 | 61 years                    | -               | -  | Maxillary-Mandibular 3:4   |
| 8       | Bisla et al.         | 2020 | 10 and 40 years             | F 1.5:1         | 0.5% to 17.7%  | anterior maxilla   |
| 9       | Martins et al.       | 2021 | Second and third decade     | no predilection | -  | Posterior mandibular (77%) and maxilla (23%)   |
| 10      | Singh et al.         | 2018 | Second and third decade     | -               | 3%-6% total neoplasms                                      | mandibular   |
| eleven  | Takahashi et al.     | 2018 | Second and third decade     | F 2:1           | 0.5 to 20%   | -  |
| 12      | Kawase-Koga et al.   | 2014 | Average age of 31.9 years   | F 1:1           | .  | Posterior Mandibular   |
| 13      | Manne et al.         | 2012 | Age. 22.7 - 36.9 years      | -               | 0.5% and 17.7%   | mandibular   |
| 14      | Vasconcelos et al.   | 2017 | Mean age 30.7 years         | F               | 0.5 and 17.7%  | Mandibular 514 cases (52.9%) and Maxillary 458 (47.1%)   |
| fifteen | Ghazali et al.       | 2021 | -                           | F               | 10.3% and 19% (Africa)                                     | mandibular   |
| 16      | Kauke et al.         | 2018 | Median age 35 years         | -               | 3 or 4 frequent tumor                                      | Jaw: 32 Jaw: 12  |

|            |                   |      |  |                 |                       |                                     |
|------------|-------------------|------|--|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 17         | Kornecki et al.   | 2015 | third decade of life                       | -               | 3rd frequent tumor    | posterior mandible                  |
| 18         | Chrcanovic et al. | 2018 | Age range 28.6 years                       | F               | -                     | Mandibular: 1261 Maxilla: 344 cases |
| 19         | Noffke et al.     | 2007 | -  | F               | -9.10%                | Jaw: 19 Jaw: 11                     |
| twenty     | Shupak et al.     | 2020 | -  | -               | -                     | -                                   |
| twenty-one | Leong et al.      | 2010 | Second or third decades                    | -               | -                     | Mandibular 66.4%, Maxillary 33.6%   |
| 22         | Kher et al.       | 2013 | Second and third decade                    | F               | -                     | -                                   |
| 23         | Wang et al.       | 2017 | Second and fifth decades                   | F 2:1           | 3%–6% total neoplasms | Mandibular, mandibular ramus        |
| 24         | White et al.      | 2020 | Ages 25 to 30 years                        | no predilection | -                     | posterior mandible                  |
| 25         | Titinchi et al.   | 2016 | Range of 7 and 44 years                    | P 2.6:1         | -                     | Mandible: 62.1% Maxilla: (37.9%)    |
| 26         | Reverand et al.   | 2018 | third decade                               | -               | 3%–6% total neoplasms | mandibular                          |
| 27         | Francis et al.    | 2017 | Ages between 7 and 51 years                | F               | -                     | Mandibular (11 cases, 78.57%)       |
| 28         | Thomas et al.     | 2011 | -  | no predilection | 2nd common tumor      | mandibular                          |
| 29         | Salim et al.      | 2019 | Fourth decade of life, ages 7 and 55 years | F 2.2:1         | 3%–6% total neoplasms | Jaw: 30 Jaw: 9                      |
| 30         | Pereira et al.    | 2019 | Second and fourth decade                   | -               | -                     | mandibular                          |
| 31         | Hammad et al.     | 2016 | Range 1-73 years                           | -               | -                     | -                                   |
| 32         | Godishala et al.  | 2018 | -  | F               | 0.04% to 3.7%         | -                                   |
| 33         | Benjelloun et al. | 2017 | Second or third decades                    | F               | -                     | mandibular                          |

The prevalence of OM is highly variable, so that in America, Asia and Europe, frequencies from 0.5% to 17.7% have been reported according to Bisla et al., Manne et al. and Vasconcelos et al [8, 13, 14]. This is in contradiction with the results of Godishala et al. which indicate prevalences from 0.04 % to 3.7 % [32]. On the other hand, Ghazali et al. document prevalences of 10.3% and 19% in countries belonging to the African continent [15]. In Latin America, Tapia et al. report an approximate incidence of 0.07/1,000,000 inhabitants, which represents about 3.3-15.7% of the population, which is relatively consistent with Bisla [3]. MO is considered the third most frequent odontogenic tumor, behind Odontomas and Ameloblastomas, statistically representing 3-6% of all odontogenic tumors according to Sohrabi et al., Saalim et al. and other authors [4, 10, 23, 26, 29].

OM can be located in different places in the maxilla or mandible. Leong et al. report that 66.4% of OM occur in the mandible and 33.6% in the maxilla [21]. Dotta et al. report a higher prevalence of OM in the mandibular posterior sector with 59.48%, followed by the maxilla in the posterior region with 52.28%, the maxillary anterior region with 19.65% and finally the mandibular anterior region with 16.23% [1]. Chrcanovic et al., Kawase et al., Bannaser et al., Manne et al., Noffke et al. reported that OM is most frequently located in the mandible in the posterior sector [6, 12, 13, 18, 19]

which agrees with Benjelloun et al. [33]. Bisla et al., found that the location of MO was in the anterior region of the maxilla [8]. Tavakoli et al. reported a 3:4 maxillary-mandibular ratio [7]. Tapia et al. mentioned a more frequent general location in the mandible and a maxillary location in pediatric patients under 2 years of age [3].

**Table 2** Variable revision results: clinical and radiographic characteristics

| Number | Author               | Year | Clinical features  | Radiographic features  |
|--------|----------------------|------|--|--|
| 1      | Dotta et al.         | 2020 | -  | Multilocular (57.49%), Unilocular (32.87%)<br>Mixed appearance (9.64%) |
| 2      | EI-Naggar            | 2017 | -  | -  |
| 3      | Tapia et al.         | 2021 | Slow growth, asymptomatic, cortical expansion<br>bone and dental displacements | Multilocular or Unilocular; well defined, ranges between 1-13 cm.      |
| 4      | Sohrabi et al.       | 2021 | 75%: cortical bone perforation, 20%: root resorption                           | Multilocular 62.9%   |
| 5      | Shivashankara et al. | 2017 | Pain, paresthesia, ulceration, mobility  | Multilocular or Unilocular   |
| 6      | Banasser et al.      | 2020 | Slow and painless growth, cortical expansion and root divergence.              | Multilocular 28.9% or Unilocular 21.1%                                 |
| 7      | Tavakoli et al.      | 2019 | Painless swelling, slow growth, displacement of teeth.                         | Multilocular or Unilocular   |
| 8      | Bisla et al.         | 2020 | Root resorption and displacement of teeth.                                     | unilocular   |
| 9      | Martins et al.       | 2021 | -  | Multilocular 54%, without root resorption                              |
| 10     | Singh et al.         | 2018 | marked asymmetry   | Unilocular or Multilocular margins well defined or diffuse.            |
| 11     | Takahashi et al.     | 2018 | No pain and no hypoesthesia  | Maxillary Uniloculars and Mandibular Multiloculars.                    |
| 12     | Kawase-Koga et al.   | 2014 | -  | -  |
| 13     | Manne et al.         | 2012 | Intermediate pain, and more aggressive   | Multilocular “soap bubble”   |
| 14     | Vasconcelos et al.   | 2017 | Displacement of teeth, rarely seen root resorption.                            | Multilocular: 61.5%, Unilocular: 34.5%, Mixed Appearance 4%            |
| 15     | Ghazali et al.       | 2021 | Swelling was the most common clinical complaint                                | Multilocular or Unilocular   |
| 16     | Kauke et al.         | 2018 | Dental resorption, dental deviation and cortical perforation                   | Multilocular: 28, Unilocular 16  |
| 17     | Kornecki et al.      | 2015 | asymptomatic   | Multilocular or Unilocular   |
| 18     | Chrcanovic et al.    | 2018 | 53.8% dental displacement, 75% cortical perforation, 20% root resorption       | Multilocular 62.9%   |
| 19     | Noffke et al.        | 2007 | -  | Multilocular: 24, Unilocular 6   |

|    |                   |      |  |   |
|----|-------------------|------|--|---|
| 20 | Shupak et al.     | 2020 | Displacement or resorption of nearby structures.               |   |
| 21 | Leong et al.      | 2010 | Swelling or asymmetry  | multilocular  |
| 22 | Kher et al.       | 2013 | -  | Multilocular 43.4%, Unilocular 6.7%   |
| 23 | Wang et al.       | 2017 | painless swelling with facial asymmetry                        | Multilocular or Unilocular, mixed appearance of honeycomb and tennis racket patterns.   |
| 24 | White et al.      | 2020 | asymptomatic   | Unilocular, Multilocular “honeycomb”, “soap bubble” or “tennis racket”  |
| 25 | Titinchi et al.   | 2016 | 31%: painful, 58.6%: history of swelling                       | Mandibular multilocular: (77.7%) Maxillary multilocular: (36.4%) Mandibular unilocular: (16.7%) Maxillary unilocular: (45.5%) |
| 26 | Reverand et al.   | 2018 | Slow growth, pain, paresthesia, ulceration and dental mobility | multilocular  |
| 27 | Francis et al.    | 2017 | Swelling, cortical perforation, dental mobility and pain       | Multilocular: 64.3%   |
| 28 | Thomas et al.     | 2011 | Swelling   | multilocular  |
| 29 | Salim et al.      | 2019 | -  | Multilocular: 30, Unilocular 7  |
| 30 | Pereira et al.    | 2019 | Facial deformities and tooth loss                              | multilocular  |
| 31 | Hammad et al.     | 2016 | Swelling, cortical perforation, dental mobility and pain       | Multilocular or Unilocular  |
| 32 | Godishala et al.  | 2018 | painless   | multilocular  |
| 33 | Benjelloun et al. | 2017 | -  | -   |

**Table 3** Variable review results: histopathology

| Number | Author               | Year | histopathology  |
|--------|----------------------|------|---|
| 1      | Dotta et al.         | 2020 | 93.43%: conventional microscopy   |
| 2      | EI-Naggar            | 2017 | -   |
| 3      | Tapia et al.         | 2021 | Stellate cells in myxoid stroma, with collagen fibers, odontogenic epithelium, mast cells and plasma cells. |
| 4      | Sohrabi et al.       | 2021 | Stellate cells with scattered fibrillar processes in myxoid ground substance                                |
| 5      | Shivashankara et al. | 2017 | Conventional microscopic findings plus remnants of epithelium   |
| 6      | Banasser et al.      | 2020 | 79%: conventional microscopy, 21%: myxofibroma microscopy   |
| 7      | Tavakoli et al.      | 2019 | -   |
| 8      | Bisla et al.         | 2020 | Pleomorphic cells, connective tissue fibers, calcifications, bony trabeculae in a mucinous matrix.          |
| 9      | Martins et al.       | 2021 | Myxoid connective tissue stroma with few collagen fibers with spindle and round cells                       |



|    |                    |      |  |
|----|--------------------|------|--|
| 10 | Singh et al.       | 2018 | Round and angular cells found in the abundant mucoid stroma                              |
| 11 | Takahashi et al.   | 2018 | Stellate cells in a loose myxoid stroma with few collagen fibers                         |
| 12 | Kawase-Koga et al. | 2014 | -  |
| 13 | Manne et al.       | 2012 | Conventional histopathologic features  |
| 14 | Vasconcelos et al. | 2017 | Round and angular cells in abundant mucoid stroma  |
| 15 | Ghazali et al.     | 2021 | -  |
| 16 | Kauke et al.       | 2018 | Spindle cells in an abundant myxoid or mucoid extracellular matrix                       |
| 17 | Kornecki et al.    | 2015 | spindle cells in a myxoid stroma   |
| 18 | Chrcanovic et al.  | 2018 | conventional histopathology, but with angular septa                                      |
| 19 | Noffke et al.      | 2007 | -  |
| 20 | Shupak et al.      | 2020 | -  |
| 21 | Leong et al.       | 2010 | Spindle and stellate cells arranged with fibrillar processes                             |
| 22 | Kher et al.        | 2013 | -  |
| 23 | Wang et al.        | 2017 | Myxoid or mucoid extracellular matrix, without capsule                                   |
| 24 | White et al.       | 2020 | Stellate cells with long pale cytoplasmic processes                                      |
| 25 | Titinchi et al.    | 2016 | Stellate to spindle cells in a mucoid-rich intercellular matrix                          |
| 26 | Reverand et al.    | 2018 | Spindle cells scattered in a mucoid stroma abundant in mucopolysaccharides               |
| 27 | Francis et al.     | 2017 | Conventional microscopy rarer mitotic figures or binucleate cells, without encapsulation |
| 28 | Thomas et al.      | 2011 | Spindle and star-shaped cells arranged in mucoid-rich stroma                             |
| 29 | Salim et al.       | 2019 | -  |
| 30 | Pereira et al.     | 2019 | spindle or star-shaped cells scattered in a myxoid matrix.                               |
| 31 | Hammad et al.      | 2016 | Conventional histopathology plus calcified trabeculae                                    |
| 32 | Godishala et al.   | 2018 | Plump, stellate cells in a myxoid matrix with delicate collagen fibers.                  |
| 33 | Benjelloun et al.  | 2017 | -  |

In relation to the clinical characteristics of OM, Banasser et al, Tavakoli et al, Tapia et al, and Kornecki et al, in their studies mention that the lesion presents a painless slow growth with expansion of the cortical bone [3, 6, 7, 17], this agrees with results obtained from Takahashi et al, and Wang et al., [11, 23]; while Shupack et al. and Shivanskara et al. consider that the lesion may behave more aggressively; causing pain, ulcers, paresthesia, displacement and resorption of adjacent structures such as teeth and bone [5, 13, 20]. According to Titinchi et al., Tavakoli et al., Ghazali et al., and Leong et al., 58.6% of lesions manifest tumefaction causing facial asymmetry that slowly increases to the affected jaw [7, 15, 21, 25].

The radiographic characteristics of OM are variable. Dotta et al., yields results indicating that the multilocular pattern is found in 57.49%, followed by the unilocular pattern with 32.87% and finally the mixed appearance with 9.64% [1]. Vasconcelos et al. similarly found a predominance of multilocular appearance with 61.5%, while unilocular lesions corresponded to 34.5% and finally mixed appearance lesions only reached 4% [14]. Titinchi et al. in their study found that 77.7% of mandibular myxomas were multilocular and 36.4% of maxillary myxomas were multilocular. In contrast to unilocular mandibular myxomas 16.7% and unilocular maxillary myxomas 45.5% in their radiographic appearance, 2 cases were not diagnosed in the maxilla and 1 case in the mandible [25]. Banasser et al. indicated a percentage of 28.9% for multilocular radiolucent lesions and 21.1% in unilocular radiolucent lesions [6]. Kher et al. found 6.7% in unilocular lesions and 43.3% in multilocular lesions [22].

**Table 4** Variable review results: treatment, recurrence

| Number | Author               | Year | Treatment  | recurrence   |
|--------|----------------------|------|--|--|
| 1      | Dotta et al.         | 2020 | surgical resection   | 13.04%   |
| 2      | El-Naggar            | 2017 | -  | -  |
| 3      | Tapia et al.         | 2021 | The standard surgical treatment is resection with safety margins.  | None   |
| 4      | Sohrabi et al.       | 2021 | Resection: greater than 3 centimeters, Enucleation, curettage: minor injuries.   | 25% after enucleation and curettage  |
| 5      | Shivashankara et al. | 2017 | conservative surgery   | 25%  |
| 6      | Banasser et al.      | 2020 | Curettage, enucleation and peripheral osteotomy  | 31% conservative curettage, 13.1% enucleation  |
| 7      | Tavakoli et al.      | 2019 | Enucleation, radical resection: it is advisable to start the treatment with the most conservative options and gradually use the most aggressive options only if there is a recurrence. | -  |
| 8      | Bisla et al.         | 2020 | conservative surgery   | At 2 years of follow-up  |
| 9      | Martins et al.       | 2021 | Conservative enucleation, curettage, en bloc resection, hemimandibulectomy   | 25%, decreased from 24% to 8.3% in patients treated conservative with a 60-month follow-up |
| 10     | Singh et al.         | 2018 | Excision with narrow margins or curettage, surgical treatment  | fifteen%   |
| 11     | Takahashi et al.     | 2018 | Surgery. Enucleation alone is inadequate.  | Conservative treatment from 10% to 33%   |
| 12     | Kawase-Koga et al.   | 2014 | Conservative surgical techniques and radical treatment   | No recurrences in radical surgery.   |
| 13     | Manne et al.         | 2012 | Radical treatment of en bloc resection   | -  |
| 14     | Vasconcelos et al.   | 2017 | Conservative treatment   | 3.70%  |
| 15     | Ghazali et al.       | 2021 | -  | -  |
| 16     | Kauke et al.         | 2018 | Conservative (enucleation, curettage and marginal resection) or radical (segmental, en bloc resection)   | 25%  |
| 17     | Kornecki et al.      | 2015 | Radical surgical resection with 1 cm safety margins  | High recurrence rate.  |
| 18     | Chrcanovic et al.    | 2018 | Conservative surgery: 44.3%; Radical surgery: 55%  | 44 recurrences   |
| 19     | Noffke et al.        | 2007 | -  | -  |
| 21     | Shupak et al.        | 2020 | (75%) mandibular resections, (25%) conservative treatments.  | Recurrence 9 years after enucleation and curettage   |
| 21     | Leong et al.         | 2010 | Local excision, curettage, enucleation, radical resection  | Conservative surgery produces greater recurrence.  |

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|----|-------------------|------|---|--|
| 22 | Kher et al.       | 2013 | -   | -  |
| 23 | Wang et al.       | 2017 | Radical therapy when it is a locally aggressive behavior  | High recurrence rate.  |
| 24 | White et al.      | 2020 | Curettage: small lesions Resection: large lesions   | 25%  |
| 25 | Titinchi et al.   | 2016 | -   | -  |
| 26 | Reverand et al.   | 2018 | curettage, radical excision   | Unencapsulated lesions can infiltrate adjacent bone.   |
| 27 | Francis et al.    | 2017 | Curettage 71.4% or segmental resection 28.6%  | Recurrences in curettage 30% and 25% resection.  |
| 28 | Thomas et al.     | 2011 | Excision, enucleation and curettage with and without electrical or chemical cauterization, en bloc resection and wide resection with and without immediate grafting, radiotherapy should not be considered as standard therapy. | General rates 10 and 33%, average rate of 25%  |
| 29 | Salim et al.      | 2019 | Conservatives (curettage, enucleation with curettage, excision curettage and excision) and resection.   | 13% 10-year follow-up  |
| 30 | Pereira et al.    | 2019 | Enucleation followed by peripheral osteotomy  | It is not associated with location, the presence of bone expansion, cortical perforation, and radiographic features. |
| 31 | Hammad et al.     | 2016 | -   | -  |
| 32 | Godishala et al.  | 2018 | Enucleation, curettage or en bloc resection.  | High recurrence rate.  |
| 33 | Benjelloun et al. | 2017 | -   | -  |

Martins et al. found that multilocular lesions were 54% and were not found with root resorption [9]. According to Kauke et al. and Wang et al. radiographic patterns range from unilocular to multilocular, the latter being the most prevalent [16] which is in agreement with the results of Thomas et al. and Pereira et al, [28, 30]. Tapia et al., found multilocular lesions, however, they can also be found as unilocular lesions that are characterized by being well demarcated with ranges ranging from approximately 1-13cm [3]. White et al. and Wang et al. describe that multilocular patterns are characterized by having a "honeycomb", "soap bubble" or "tennis racket" appearance [23, 24].

Histologically, Bisla et al. in their studies describe the OM as a collection of scattered pleomorphic cells with calcifications, bony trabeculae, blood vessels, all enveloped within a mucinous matrix [8]. Sohrab et al, indicates the presence of stellate, spindle-shaped cells that present long fibrillar processes that tend to intertwine with the inactive odontogenic epithelium dispersed throughout the myxoid ground substance; such description agrees with Titinchi et al, Martins et al, Godishala et al, Thomas et al, Leong et al, and Takahashi et al, [4, 9, 11, 21, 25, 28, 32]. The study by Francisco et al. describes the presence of abundant dense collagen fibers with some mitotic figures and binucleated cells, with the presence of minimal vascularization [27]. Tapia et al., on the other hand, indicate the presence of mast cells and plasmacytes [3]. While Reverand et al. mention that the mucoid or myxoid stroma is composed of abundant content of mucopolysaccharides, such as hyaluronic acid and chondroitin sulfate [26]. Finally, in certain cases, large amounts of collagen are observed arranged in the form of fibers, which gives the characteristic name of myxofibroma or fibromyxoma [8, 18, 27]. Thus, Banasser et al. in their retrospective study of 38 cases indicate a prevalence of 79% of cases of conventional odontogenic myxomas and 21% correspond to myxofibromas in histopathological specimens [6].

Generally, the treatment of OM is classified into conservative including (curettage, enucleation with curettage, excision curettage and excision) and bloc resection, according to Saalim et al. and Kauke et al [16, 27]. Martins et al. mention that treatment ranges from conservative enucleation and curettage to in bloc resection and hemimandibulectomy [9]. Shivashankara et al. state in their study that the treatment for OM is conservative surgery [5]. Chrcanovic et al, reported that conservative surgery treatment was used in 44.3% of cases and radical surgery in 55% of cases and 0.7% by radiotherapy or no treatment. [18]. Thomas et al. mention excision, enucleation and curettage with and without electrical or chemical cauterization, bloc resection and wide resection with and without immediate grafting as treatments, on the other hand, they mention that radiotherapy should not be considered as a standard treatment option [28]. Tavakoli et al. also indicate that the treatment of OM varies from enucleation to radical resection and that it is advisable to start treatment with the most conservative options and gradually advance to more aggressive treatment options only if there is recurrence [7]. Wang et al. agree with the various authors that radical therapy is essential as a treatment when a lesion with locally aggressive behavior is encountered [23]. Takahashi et al. mentions that the only treatment for OM is surgery and enucleation alone is an inadequate treatment [11]. On the other hand, Sohrabi et al. mentions resection for OM larger than 3 centimeters, and enucleation and curettage for smaller lesions [4]. The correct treatment for OM according to Kornecki et al. is radical surgical resection with 1 cm safety margins [17].

Finally, recurrence of OM is also highly variable, with Shivashankara et al., Kauke et al., Thomas et al. and White et al. reporting a recurrence rate of 25% [5, 16, 24, 28]. Sohrabi et al. also agree with the very high recurrence of 25% but indicate that only after enucleation and curettage [4]. Martins et al. agrees with the mean rate of 25% and adds that the rates decrease from 24% to 8.3% in patients who were treated conservatively and accompanied with a follow-up of more than 60 months [9]. In contrast to the above Dotta et al. mentions a recurrence of 13.04% of cases in both conservative and radical surgery. [1]. Saalim et al. agree with the overall recurrence of 13%, with a mean follow-up of 10 years in the cases observed [29]. Also, recurrence of OM will depend on the treatment as indicated by Banasser [6]. On the other hand, Francisco et al. in their study observed that patients showed recurrence and required additional surgery in 30% when previously treated with curettage and in 25% when treated with resection as the initial procedure [27]. Vasconcelos et al. reported in their follow-up of 136 cases, only 5 cases with 3.7% reported recurrence [14]. Tapia et al. in their study in pediatric patients found that no patient treated with conservative therapy presented recurrence, this demonstrated the safety of conservative surgical treatment in children [3]. Reverand et al., states that the recurrence of OM is probably due to the fact that they are non-encapsulated lesions whose myxomatous cells can infiltrate the adjacent bone [26]. Finally, Pereira et al. report that the recurrence rate of OM is not associated with radiographic features, location, presence of bone expansion and cortical perforation [30].

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## 5. Conclusion

In conclusion, odontogenic myxoma is a rare pathologic entity, despite this, it is considered the third most common odontogenic tumor. Its etiopathogenesis is not very clear. Demographically, there is a clear predilection for the female sex, being infrequent in the male sex and it is mostly found between the second and third decade of life. Its location is mostly in the posterior mandibular sector and clinically it manifests as a slow, painless growth, although it can behave more aggressively causing pain, paresthesia and involvement of adjacent structures such as teeth and bones. Radiographically, the most prevalent pattern is multilocular, but unilocular or mixed patterns can also be found. Regarding prognosis and recurrence, these are closely linked to their treatment, however, there is no "gold standard" for the therapy and diagnosis of the lesion, so more studies are needed to establish a fixed guideline for its treatment.

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## Compliance with ethical standards

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### *Disclosure of conflict of interest*

The authors agree no conflict of interest.

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