

Abstract:

This article briefly reviews the origin, classification and pathogenesis of the various odontogenic cysts. Keratocysts and follicular cysts are said to be developmental lesions arising from the remnants of the dental lamina and the cell rests of the dental follicle respectively. The radicular cysts are the most commonly occurring lesions associated with the apices of non-vital teeth. They are said to arise from proliferation of the cell rests of Malassez in chronically inflamed granulomata. It is noted that bone resorption is the major requirement for any bony lesion to expand; hence the interest in the role of diverse cellular and chemical mediators of bone resorption in disease. The current concepts of the role, in cyst initiation and growth, of enzymes including cellular metabolites and cytokines are presented. Evidence on the activities of collagenase, arachidonic acid metabolites, leukotrienes, hydroxyeicosatetraenoic acids, interleukin--1 and prostaglandins is cited. It is observed that the understanding of these cellular and molecular biological behaviour patterns may yield more appropriate information necessary for the development of more effective management modalities for such tissue degrading lesions as odontogenic cysts.