Author’s response to reviews

Title: Non-syndromic occurrence of true generalized microdontia with mandibular mesiodens - A rare case

Authors:

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Head & Face Medicine

Head & Face Medicine Editorial Office

Ref.: Manuscript MS: 9353476955495472 entitled Non-syndromic occurrence of true generalized microdontia with mandibular mesiodens - A rare case

We are re-submitting a revised version of our manuscript after addressing the areas of concern highlighted by the reviewers and taking into account their suggestions and comments. The changes of the manuscript are visible by using yellow highlighted text. In this covering letter the reviewer’s comments are answered point-by-point.

We appreciate the thoroughness with which the reviewers regarded our paper and hope that the article may now be suitable for publication in the Head and face Medicine.

We look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Seema Bargale
Reviewer: Alberto Sensi

Major compulsory revisions

1) Considering that an important point is that the condition is not syndromic a dysmorphologic specialist examination with auxologic data and good morphological description should be mandatory for excluding syndromic forms. (pictures of the face could be useful if possible to get).

Answer: The points raised are highly valid and a dysmorphologic specialist would have definitely contributed to the description of the patient. However the lack of any such specialist in our institution or in the considerable surrounding area of the province made such an examination an arduous task for the parents who were unwilling to undertake. And moreover the patient did not have any features of extra oral dysmorphology. Pictures of the face is not possible to get now as the patient is not accessible now.

Minor essential revisions

1) The syndromal list with microdontia and with hyperdontia should be updated with reference to specific syndromology databases such as POSSUM or LONDON.

Answer: Thank you for your immense guidance. We have updated the syndromes with POSSUM syndromology databases on page no.3 2\textsuperscript{nd} paragraph and page no.4, 2\textsuperscript{nd} paragraph.

2) Clarify: “Endocrinological evaluation showed that hormone levels were within normal limits”

Answer: Endocrinological investigation was carried out to rule in or out the possibility of hormonal disorder, and the results were within normal limits.

3) Consanguinity should be better described (first cousins?). Consanguinity could suggest autosomal recessive inheritance: authors say "the case is also sporadic, with no positive family history". But this could be consistent with autosomal recessive etiology (are there sibs? Were they indagated?(investigated))

Answer: In our case, consanguinity was maternal first cousins. We agree with you that consanguinity could suggest autosomal recessive inheritance at the same time this case might have been occurred sporadic also. None of the family members were affected with the similar abnormality. The patient was the only child to his parents.

4) “MEDLINE search in the English literature for true generalized revealed zero search”: this sentence is incomplete and not understandable
We apologize for the typing mistake. True generalized has to be read as true generalized microdontia. The same sentence has been corrected in page no 6, 3rd paragraph 3rd line. As far as we are aware, this is the first such case to be reported in English dental literature with nonsyndromic true generalized microdontia associated with mandibular mesiodense.

Reviewer: cigdem elbek cubukcu

Major compulsory revisions:

1) Consanguineous marriage and difficult delivery were present in the history of the patient. Needs further explanation especially in the discussion part of the report

Answer: The changes have been made in the discussion part page 6 paragraph 1 and on page 7 paragraph 1 as per your comments.

2) Panoramic X-ray and anterior periapical X-Rays should of be obtained. "Orthopantomogram or the Intra oral periapical radigraph could not be taken because the patient was not able to afford." not an explanation in my opinion. Those views could show us hidden pathologies may be indicating another systemic condition associated with generalized microdontia. Lateral sephalogram could be added to the radiological investigation in order to exclude the signs of any syndromic conditions.

Answer: We agree whole heartedly with the reviewer that the suggested views would have added more information. However our intentions are wholly bonafide, when we state that the parents could truly not afford to get those films since they came from a very poor socioeconomic back ground.

3) No genetical analysis was reported. I recommend that a geneticist must be included in the study as an author to clarify whether the presence of any disorder which can be affect the dental development.

Answer: The points raised are highly valid and a geneticist would have definitely contributed to the description of the patient. However the lack of any such specialist in our institution or in the considerable surrounding area of the province made such an examination an arduous task for the parents which they were unwilling to undertake.

4) Photographs of the child were insufficiently presented. Figures should be decreased in number. Intraoral views of the patient should be properly photograhed according to the protocol. Radiological presentations of the mouth must be included as another figure.

Answer: As per your suggestion the figures have been decreased and also the intraoral photograph modified
However our intentions are wholly bonafide, when we state that the parents could truly not afford to get those films since they came from a very poor socioeconomic back ground.

5) Literatures must be decreased in number (this is a case report) and should be updated.

Answer: As per the journal’s author guidelines, references were updated.

6) The child had primary canine teeth in his mouth, needs further explanation.

Answer: Even our initial impression about canine was retained primary canine. However, upon careful examination revealed it was permanent canine and even though moderately attrition was been observed, and on the study case, the mesio-distal and the bucco-lingual measurements subsisted in the range of a permanent teeth.

7) I suggest the authors to contact Prof. Dr. Agnes BLOCH-ZUPAN who researches dental manifestations indicating isloated syndromes in the reference centre for orodental manifestations of rare diseases in Strasbourg France. she probably will give excellent informations about the isolated syndromes.

Answer: As per your suggestion, we contacted Prof. Dr. ANGNES BLOCH-ZUPAN regarding the case, she mentioned about nonsyndromic consideration after the evaluation the case.