

**Sublingual gland defect at the mandible - report of 3 cases**

P. Sinpitaksakul<sup>1</sup>, W. Cholitgul<sup>2</sup>, O. Silkosetsak<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>Faculty of Dentistry, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand

<sup>2</sup>Faculty of Dental Medicine, Rangsit University, Patumthani, Thailand

The sublingual gland defect is a shallow depression of the sublingual salivary gland on the inner surface of the anterior part of the mandible. It appears in the radiograph as a radiolucent defect with rounded and irregular shape, with or without corticated border at the periapical area or superimposed to the apical region of nearby teeth in the asymptomatic patient. This finding aims to mimicking those pathologic conditions to develop cysts, benign lesions, early stage of fibro-osseous lesions, etc. These symptoms are thought to be caused by an ectopic portion of the salivary gland which causes the bone of the lingual cortical plate to remodel. In rare instances the defect can be completely surrounded by bones, and this has been theorized to be the result of an entrapment of embryonic salivary gland tissue within the bone.

For this case we examine three patients suffering from sublingual salivary gland depression at the anterior parts of the mandibles with different radiographic findings. The details of radiographic characters of these patients are reviewed, reported and discussed.

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