

Two looked alike defects appeared in the maxillary sinuses

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Osteoma is a benign lesion which may occurring either external or within the paranasal sinuses. It is more common in the frontal and ethmoid sinuses than in the maxillary sinus. The developing of osteoma usually painless until its size or position interferes with function or cause a asymmetrical face, similarly to the present of embedded upper third molar in the maxillary sinus. These make both defects become a rare condition in dental routine check-up. We report the two look alike defects in the maxillary sinuses of two different patients on the panoramic radiographs at their first radiographic examination.

The first case is a 37 years old female who has an embedded upper third molar in her right maxillary sinus. Another case is a 32 years old female whose left maxillary sinus presented with a huge dense radiopaque of osteoma. Both cases were referred to performing a dental computed tomography (dental CT) for gathering more detail for treatment planning. From the Dental CT images, the first case can be diagnosed as an embedded molar tooth within the right maxillary sinus, which has normal radiographic configuration. In other hands, a large pedunculated homogeneous mineral opacity with hollowly radiolucent of bone marrow space, extended from the wall of left maxillary sinus is detected from dental CT images of the second case. In addition, the radiographic pattern such as enamel and dentine layers is unremarkable. This condition has reinforcing its definitive diagnosis as osteoma. While using the conventional radiographs alone can be difficult to give the final diagnosis of both cases, the dental CT images can reveal the radiographic features of these two defects clearly which may lead to more accurate diagnosis and more proper treatment plan for each case.

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