

A RARE INCIDENCE OF NON-SYNDROMIC BIFID TONGUE IN A GERIATRIC FEMALE INDIVIDUAL DURING COVID 19 OMICRON PANDEMIC PERIOD – A CASE REPORT

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ABSTRACT

Syndromic or non-syndromic etiology targets bifid tongue. A female patient of 25 years old complained of a bifurcated tongue tip in the anterior one-third focusing on the importance of the non-syndromic aspect.

KEYWORDS: *Tongue, Bifurcation, Oral, Dental, Maxillofacial, Pathology*

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INTRODUCTION

Embryology of the tongue occurs in the 4th week of pregnancy in the form of a swelling in the centre, the tuberculum impar seen on the pharyngeal region along with two lingual swellings on the lateral aspect. Anterior 2/3rd is formed by these lingual structures present laterally which cover the tuberculum impar. In case of any disruption in this mechanism, might lead to a bifid tongue^{1,2,3,4,5} In this case report, we highlight the importance of non-syndromicity in the case of bifid tongue.

CASE REPORTS

A female patient of about 25 years old attended the dental outpatient department with a complaint of speech difficulty. There were no systemic complications. Clinically, bifurcation was noted at the tip of the tongue slightly towards the right side (Fig1). Hypertrophism and bilateral clefting were seen in the upper frenal and alveolar region in relation to lateral incisor and canine. Esthetic correction of the tongue in relation to the bifurcated part was planned and the patient is under follow-up.



Figure 1

DISCUSSIONS

Median tongue bud forms during the 4th. Distal tongue buds appear on the lateral aspect. The mesenchymal proliferation of the first pharyngeal arch gives rise to these swellings. Oral segment is formed by merging of lateral and median segments⁷ The median sulcus is seen in the middle region of the tongue⁸. The fusion is marked by a middle groove on the tongue called the median sulcus. The bifid tongue is seen in which a groove runs along the tip due to a lack of fusion of lateral swellings. Etiology links to maternal diabetes, orofacial digital syndrome, Pierre Robin sequence and Klippel Feil anomaly⁹.

CONCLUSIONS

Clinical occurrence of the bifid tongue is rare. Non-syndromic variety is of utmost importance. Early diagnosis and suitable management will render an esthetic outcome and improve the quality of life of the patient. Examination of the tongue plays an important role in patients of all ages, gender and systemic complications. Oral health care professional has the dutiful rights and responsibility in ruling out conditions in conjunction with bifid tongue.

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