



# Osseous metaplasia of the palate: a case report

Won-Yong Kim, Chul-Hwan Kim

Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Dankook University Dental Hospital, Cheonan, Korea

**Abstract** (J Korean Assoc Oral Maxillofac Surg 2022;48:315-317)

Osseous metaplasia is defined as the formation of lamellar bone inside soft tissue structures where bone normally does not exist. It results from the transformation of non-osseous connective tissue into mature bone. This condition is rare in the oral and maxillofacial region. We report a case of osseous metaplasia of the maxilla, a rare benign tumor in an uncommon region. A 60-year-old male patient visited our clinic complaining of foreign body sensation and asymptomatic swelling on the right palatal side. However, he did not experience pain and reported no local trauma that he could remember. Intra-oral examination revealed an exophytic lesion on the right palatal portion. On computed tomography, there was a round hard-tissue mass approximately 2 cm in diameter on the right palate area. The mass was biopsied and diagnosed as an osseous metaplasia. We review the clinical, radiographic, and histologic features and common causes of osseous metaplasia and report a rare case of osseous metaplasia of the palate.

**Key words:** Palate, Oral cavity

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## I. Introduction

Osseous metaplasia is the formation of lamellar bone inside soft tissue structures where bone normally does not exist<sup>1</sup>. It forms as a result of the transformation of non-osseous connective tissue into mature bone. Osseous metaplasia is usually caused by osteoblasts differentiating from fibroblasts secondary to inflammation, tissue damage, exposure to substances such as bone morphogenetic proteins released from neoplastic cells, or dystrophic calcification in necrotic tissue. Several cases of osseous metaplasia has been reported to occur in thyroid gland, endometrium, breast, etc. It occurs as a common complication after orthopedic surgery, but it is rare in the oral and maxillofacial region and only a few cases have been reported in the literature. Here we present a case of osseous metaplasia of the palate that did not result from an ill-fitting dental prosthesis, trauma, or intra-oral carcinoma.

### Chul-Hwan Kim

Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Dankook University Dental Hospital, 119 Dandae-ro, Dongnam-gu, Cheonan 31116, Korea

TEL: +82-41-550-0271

E-mail: kimchoms@dankook.ac.kr

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5199-2420>

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## II. Case Report

A 60-year-old male patient visited our clinic complaining of a palpable mass on the right palate area. He did not complain of any pain from the mass, and reported no history of trauma. The patient had no relevant diseases other than hypertension.

Clinical examination revealed a large, round, firm mass on the right palate area that was also observed on panoramic view. On computed tomography, there was a round hard-tissue mass approximately 2 cm in diameter on the right palate area.(Fig. 1)

Based on clinical and radiographic examination, the clinical diagnosis was osseous metaplasia of the right palate, and we planned to excise the mass under general anesthesia. The surgical procedure for excision was performed intraorally and biopsy was performed.(Fig. 2, 3)

The patient was treated with IV antibiotics and was discharged two days after surgery. Histological examination revealed osseous metaplasia.

## III. Discussion

Osseous metaplasia has been reported to occur systemically other than intra-oral portion. Chun et al.<sup>2</sup> reported three cases of osseous metaplasia of the thyroid gland in female



Also, as Cutright<sup>4</sup> reported, osseous metaplasia has been shown in the anterior region of the alveolar ridge more often than the posterior regions. In our case, osseous metaplasia was found in the posterior maxilla region, which is unusual.

In conclusion, osseous metaplasia frequently occurs systemically but rarely in the oral and maxillofacial region. The most common causes of osseous metaplasia are trauma or surgery. In the oral cavity, it most commonly occurs due to ill-fitting dental prostheses. Sinus trauma due to endoscopic sinus surgery can also be a cause. Additionally, osseous metaplasia in the surrounding tissue stroma is characteristic of odontogenic squamous cell carcinoma. This case of osseous metaplasia did not occur due to any trauma or surgery, and it occurred in the posterior maxilla, which is an uncommon site in the oral cavity. For these reasons, it should be considered as a unique case. Because osseous metaplasia rarely occurs in the oral cavity and is a rare condition in the oral and maxillofacial region that can resemble other osseous benign or malignant lesions, histopathologic study and differential diagnosis are needed.

## ORCID

Won-Yong Kim, <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4319-4442>

Chul-Hwan Kim, <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5199-2420>

## Authors' Contributions

W.Y.K. participated in data collection and wrote the manuscript, C.H.K. participated in coordination and helped to

draft the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

## Conflict of Interest

No potential conflict of interest relevant to this article was reported.

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