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An Unusual Sequel to Calcium Hydroxide Extrusion- A Case Report

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Abstract

Calcium hydroxide $[Ca(OH)_2]$ has been widely used as short- or long-term intracanal inter appointment antibacterial dressing material as it is associated with Peri radicular healing.

In this case report of 13 year old, a prepared paste of calcium hydroxide and saline was introduced and was working well but accidentally the extruded material through the orifice showed a deleterious effect on the soft tissue. Following a careful protocol after the accident the child showed satisfactory healing.

Keywords: Calcium Hydroxide paste, Periapical Lesion, Accidental Extrusion, Extraoral Swelling.

Introduction

 $Ca(OH)_2$ is a formless, thin, granular powder with strong alkaline properties is proven gold standard material since its inception in 1921 by Hermann. It can dissolve only slightly in water and is insoluble in alcohol. Its usage in endodontics initially was confined as a mixture of $Ca(OH)_2$ with any of the vehicles (aqueous,viscous) as it lacks radiopacity and is not easily seen radiographically. Later it was used for different treatment avenues.

As an intracanal medicament it has been associated with periradicular healing, and the routine use of $Ca(OH)_2$ as an inter appointment intracanal medicament became widespread [1].

Its anti-inflammatory activity, neutralization of acid products, activation of alkaline phosphatase, antibacterial action [2] and its allowing the connective tissue invagination into lesion [3] led $Ca(OH)_2$ to be deliberately placed beyond the apical foramen into the periradicular lesions thus becoming an immediate choice of material where the other dental materials have failed.

The literature supports that calcium hydroxide even after extrusion into the periradicular area would resorb without any untoward effects [4,5]. Case reports have been published suggesting non resorbability and delayed healing [6].

Contrary to the normal belief the present case reports an unusual and rare consequence of an accidental extrusion of calcium hydroxide through coronal orifice of maxillary left central incisor which lead to a swelling in the upper mucosa and the lip.

Case Report

A 13 year old female patient reported to the Department of Paediatric and Preventive Dentistry, Anil Neerukonda Institute of Dental Sciences, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, with a chief complaint of pain in maxillary central incisor. A relevant history of trauma to the maxillary anterior region two years back and a recent blow on the anterior region during play was reported. On electric pulp testing the concerned tooth gave true negative response indicating non vitality.

The radiographic examination revealed a diffused radiolucency in relation to maxillary left central incisor (fig 1). A diagnosis of a phoenix abscess due to pulpal necrosis as a sequel to trauma was arrived at. The patient was kept on antibiotics and analgesics and was reviewed after three days for endodontic treatment.

Under local anesthesia (Lignox2%), endodontic treatment was initiated. On access opening, there was purulent pus discharge along with blood into the pulp chamber. The root canal was cleaned and shaped with K-Files (Mani, Prime Dental) using step back technique upto 40K file. The canals were irrigated with 5ml saline. The discharge eventually stopped after through biomechanical preparation. inter-appointment An dressing with Ca(OH)₂powder (Vishal Dentocare Pvt. Ltd, Ahmedabad, Gujarat) mixed with saline was placed and was given a closed dressing. Patient was recalled after three days for further treatment. However, the patient reported on the very next day with a complain of swollen lip on the treated side.(fig 2) The detailed history revealed the onset of the swelling started immediately after reaching home and it increased gradually to the present size. Intraoral examination revealed slight sloughing, desquamation of the labial mucosa in relation to the treated side of the lip with totally no pain. (fig 3)

Treatment

The early detection by the patient and immediate implementation of the following therapeutic measures has ensured the rapid cure and possible prevention of further mucosal damage. The measures taken were Permanent removal of causative agent in the root canal.

Copious irrigation with normal saline in the root canal and on the site of swelling and discharging the patient with an open dressing.

Topical application of benzocaine.

Nutritional supplements in the form of Multivitamins that improved the healing.

Advised the patient to be on soft and cold diet without spice for a week.

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Recalled after 48 hrs, for further treatment.

The swelling subsided satisfactorily and root canal treatment was carried out followed by crown.(fig 4)

Discussion

Calcium hydroxide (Ca (OH) ₂) has a wide array of usage in the field of Endodontics as a liner after cavity preparation, indirect and direct pulp capping, as a intra canal dressing during root canals, prevention of root resorption, repair of iatrogenic perforations, treatment of horizontal root fractures, and as a constituent of root canal sealers.[4]

Its extensive use is because of its properties such as initiation and stimulation of mineralization, the antibacterial characteristics, and the dissolution of necrotic material.[5]

In some cases Ca(OH)₂ dressing material is consciously placed beyond apical foramen for its beneficial action on periradicular tissues.[6]

Such deliberate overextension may not be favorable in some cases, since periradicular extrusion of $Ca(OH)_2can$ have damaging effects.[7] neurotoxic effects of root canal sealers [8], cytotoxicity on cell culture [9], damaged epithelium with or without cellular atypia when applied on hamster cheek pouches [10], cellular damage following early Ca(OH)₂ dressing of avulsed teeth [11] and necrosis of buccal gingiva and mucosa after periradicular overextension due to alkaline burn [12]. Some of the materials affecting soft tissue are:

Aspirin: It causes localized white scurf with a reddened and thickened border. Calcium hydroxide: Patients present with a swollen lip and mucosa, no history of pain and an extensive necrotic zone on gingiva with perforation [13].This holds up with the present case where it shows the presence of swollen lips with slight desquamation of the tissue with no pain.

Eugenol burns: It usually presents with burning sensation and pain over the exposed area. Patient also complains of itching sensation. Intraoral examination may reveal allergic reaction "contact stomatitis" over the gingiva and adjacent mucosa.[14]

Clinical presentation of the chemical injuries might differ according to the composition and concentration, pH of the substance, the quantity applied, the manner and duration of tissue contact, and the extent of penetration into tissue. These oral mucosal changes can vary from diffuse erosive lesions ranging from simple mucosal sloughing to complete mucosal detachment with extension into the submucosa. [15]

In the present case, as the quantity and time of tissue contact is less, the erosive changes was confined to superficial sloughing with white to yellow lesion. Hence it may be a case of chemical burn on the lips caused by Ca(OH)₂.

Conclusion

Clinical diagnosis may be a diagnostic challenge; therefore, a detailed history and review of a patient's medical condition and ruling out the causative agent will help to differentiate the possible reason of the presenting lesion. The management primarily requires identification and elimination of the agent responsible followed by symptomatic treatment and prevents recurrence.

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Legend Figure



Fig 1: IOPA showing diffused radiolucency i.r.t maxillary left central incisor

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Fig 2: Extraoral photograph showing swollen on the left side of the upper lip



Fig 3: Slight sloughing, Desquamation of the labial mucosa in relation to the treated side of the lip



Fig 4: Post treatment photograph showing crown after the completion of root canal. Complete resolution of swelling can also be seen.

