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RESEARCH ARTICLE

AMELOGENESIS IMPERFECTA HYPOMATURATIVE TYPE – A RARE CASE REPORT

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ABSTRACT

Amelogenesis imperfect (AI) is an inheritable disease manifest as enamel defect. It affects both primary and permanent dentition. It seldom affects the dentin and pulp. Amelogenesis imperfecta shows wide range of variation starting from mild discoloration to complete abrasion as soon as the teeth erupt into the oral cavity. Enamel may show quantitative as well as qualitative defect in mineral and protein content. In this article we present a special case of amelogenesis imperfecta which shows a rare hypomaturative type with sporadic inheritance and we discuss about its mode of inheritance, types, clinical presentation, histopathological features and management.

INTRODUCTION

Amelogenesis imperfect (AI) includes a complex group of conditions that shows developmental defect in the enamel structure without any systemic disease (Neville et al., 2009). Dental Enamel is the most hardest and mineralized tissue in the body, made up of >95% by hydroxyapatite crystals (Arora, 2018). Dental enamel is unique when compared to other mineralized structures like Dentin, cartilage and bone in the way it is non collagenous, developed from epithelium. Enamel will not undergo resorption and remodeling (Chanmougananda, 2012). Ameloblast forms Enamel and the process is termed as amelogenesis. Each and every step in amelogenesis is very important for enamel formation (Smith, 2009). Enamel composition depends purely on the molecular and cellular events in amelogenesis. The prevalence of AI ranges from 1 in 718 to 1 in 14,000 based on the population included in the study (Chaudhary, 2009). AI is an inherited enamel defect which shows clinical and genetic variation. It affects primary or permanent dentition as a whole involving all the teeth or few teeth in the dentition (Sarawathi, 2011). The dentin and root are spared and will not be involved even in the affected teeth (Chaudhary, 2009).

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Disorders of the enamel epithelium may cause alteration in the eruption mechanism resulting in the anterior open bite (Rajendran, 2009). Patients may also present with other abnormalities like congenitally missing teeth, pulpal calcifications, root and crown resorption, hypercementosis, root malformations, and taurodontism. Because of attrition and/or incomplete eruption they will have short clinical crown which will affect their chewing efficiency and also cause tooth sensitivity (Nigam, 2015).

Case report

An 18 year old male patient came to the department of oral medicine and radiology with the chief complaint of yellowish brown discoloration of his teeth. History of presenting illness revealed that his primary teeth was also discoloured. Patient Medical History was non-contributory and there was no positive family history (Figure 1). Intra oral hard tissue examination revealed generalized yellowish-brown discoloration of the teeth with normal enamel thickness. The shape and size of the teeth appeared to be normal (Figure 2). On palpation the surface was rough and there was no softness or chipping of the enamel evident. Sensitivity, Caries, Anterior Open bite, Attrition and other complication of AI were absent in this patient.

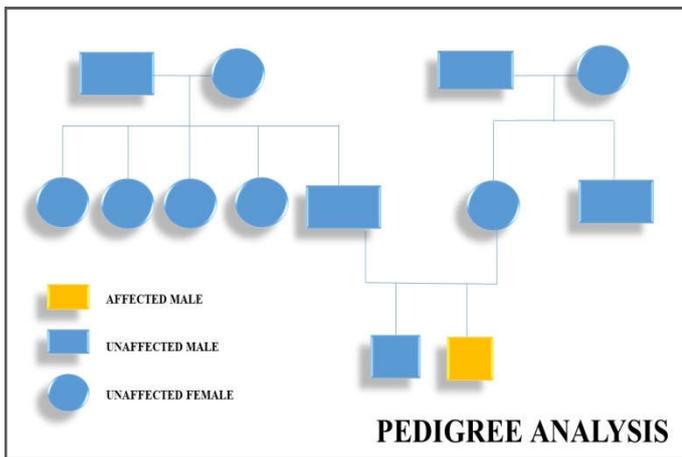


Figure 1. Illustrate the Pedigree Chart of the patient depicting all other members of the family were normal suggesting Sporadic type of inheritance



Figure 2. Shows Yellowish brown discoloration of enamel with normal thickness. The shape and size of the teeth shows no abnormalities



Figure 3. OPG shows normal enamel thickness with normal dentin ,pulp chamber and root canal spaces with no signs of obliteration and horizontally impacted lower third molars, 38 and 48

On examining the soft tissue of the periodontium revealed the presence of chronic generalized gingivitis. On Radiographic investigations, the OPG showed normal enamel thickness with radiodensity same as that of dentin with a normal pulp chamber and root canal spaces with no signs of obliteration and also revealed the presence of horizontally impacted lower third molars, 38 and 48 (Figure 3). A provisional diagnosis of hypomaturative type of AI was given with a differential diagnosis of enamel hypoplasia, dentinogenesis imperfecta, dentin dysplasia, regional odontodysplasia. Following which horizontally impacted third molar 48 was extracted and sent for histopathological investigation in which ground section of the teeth revealed irregular orientation of the enamel rods in some areas (Figure 4). Incremental lines are not prominent in the occlusal aspect. Increased number of enamel lamellae and tufts were seen (Figure 5). Enamel spindles are seen in moderate number.



Figure 4. Reveal ground section of the teeth with irregular orientation of the enamel rods



Figure 5. Depicts increased number of enamel lamellae and tufts



Figure 6. Represents dentino-enamel junction is devoid of scalloping

Table 1.

Type I hypoplastic	IA	Pitted autosomal dominant
	IB	Local autosomal dominant
	IC	Local autosomal recessive
	ID	Smooth autosomal dominant
	IE	Smooth X-linked dominant
	IF	Rough autosomal dominant
	IG	Enamel agenesis, autosomal recessive
Type II hypomaturation	IIA	Pigmented autosomal recessive
	IIB	Hypomaturation
	IIC	Snow capped teeth, X-linked
	IID	Autosomal dominant?
Type III hypocalcification	IIIA	Autosomal dominant
	IIIB	Autosomal recessive
Type IV hypomaturation — hypoplastic with taurodontism	IVA	Hypomaturation — hypoplastic with taurodontism, autosomal dominant
	IVB	Hypoplastic — hypomaturation with taurodontism, autosomal dominant

Table 2.

Hypoplastic form	Hypomaturation form	Hypocalcified Form
Reduction in the thickness of enamel matrix with normal mineralization	Defect in the mineralization process with normal matrix formation	Defect in the quality of the mineralization process with normal quantity of matrix formation
CLINICAL APPEARANCE		
Reduced thickness of enamel	Normal thickness of enamel	Normal thickness of enamel with loss of translucency
The colour appears normal with translucency to a yellow to dark brown colour depending on the thickness of enamel and dentin	Colour may be affected by staining from the oral environment. Mottled appearance to yellow-brown or redbrown discoloration	Colour may be affected by staining from the oral environment. Teeth appear more dark
Reduction in tooth size Rough, irregular or pitted enamel	Enamel is hypomineralized and prone to attrition	Enamel is hypomineralized and exhibits a soft cheesy consistency. Easily broken down
RADIOGRAPHIC FEATURE		
Enamel and dentin appears normal	Enamel has similar radiodensity as dentin	Enamel is less radiopaque than dentin

Most part of dentino-enamel junction is devoid of scalloping (Figure 6). Reduced amount of gnarled enamel is present. A treatment plan consists of oral prophylaxis and prosthetic treatment was framed. Esthetics was the patient major concern so patient was advised for prosthetic management of the discoloured tooth.

DISCUSSION

AI denotes a group of disorders with genetic origin, and it will affect the enamel structure and clinical appearance of some or all the teeth in a same manner, and in addition to it there may be biochemical or morphologic changes elsewhere in the body (Witkop, 1988). Witkop and Sauk classification of AI is depicted in Table 1 (Aldred, 2003). The hypoplastic type is most common in females and it contributes to about 60%–73% of cases. The hypomaturation type is common in males and it was seen in 20%–40% of cases. Hypocalcified AI is rare and it affects 7% of individuals affected by AI. (Arora, 2018). AI shows autosomal dominant, autosomal recessive, sex linked inheritance patterns, as well as sporadic in few rare cases. X-linked form of AI shows the typical pattern of X-linked inheritance. Heterozygous females have 50% chances of transmitting the affected gene to children of both the sex. It affects males and females in distinctly different ways. Males display the condition fully (Fischman, 1967). Autosomal dominant form of AI affects one or more people in every generation of a family. The expression of AI may look similar or it may look entirely different among the members of the same family. Autosomal recessive form of AI is more common in population where intermarriage within the family is more common. Sporadic cases of AI may arise because of one of many causes. It may be due to new mutation or different expression with or without incomplete transmission of dominant gene. It is mandatory to examine other family members in such situation for proper diagnosis and eliminate any other dental defect caused because of non-genetic causes

(Crawford, 2007). In the process of amelogenesis, soft extracellular matrix made of protein is converted into hard mineralized tissue called enamel and this process is controlled by molecular and cellular events which is mediated by specific genes. Any genetic mutation will reflect eventually as a defect in the enamel (Lakshman, 2016). It includes enamelin, amelogenin, ameloblastin, and tuftelin, amelotin, dentin sialophosphoprotein, kallikrein and matrix metalloproteinase 20 (Chanmougananda, 2012). Different types of AI with its clinical and radiographic appearance is depicted in Table 2 (Roma, 2016), Hypoplastic AI is due to defect in the secretory stage of enamel and it results in thin but mineralized enamel in mild cases to entire loss of enamel in severe cases. Hypomineralized AI is due to defect in the maturation stage and it results in full thick enamel but is weak and fails prematurely. The hypomineralized type is classified into hypomaturation and hypocalcified AI. In which hypomaturation is due to defect in protein removal from the enamel matrix and result in brittle enamel and hypocalcified is due to defect in calcium transport and result in soft enamel (Smith, 2017).

Histopathological Findings: Histologically, in hypoplastic type, there is deficiency in enamel matrix formation where as in hypocalcification type, there is deficiency in structure of enamel matrix and also defect in mineralization is noted. Altered enamel rod and rod sheath structures were evident in hypomaturative type of AI histologically in many studies (Mehta, 2013).

Differential diagnosis: Many forms of enamel dysmineralization were also noted and they exhibit a characteristic pattern depend upon the stage of amelogenesis when the insult was noted. It can be differentiated from AI by the fact it will cause defect in all the teeth in same way and it will have familial inheritance. Another important thing to be considered is Fluorosis but it will not uniformly affect all the

teeth usually premolars and second permanent molars remains unaffected. One should also note the fluoride intake history for proper diagnosis (American Academy on Pediatric Dentistry Council on Clinical Affairs, 2008).

Treatment: Heritable developmental dental disorders have remarkable negative effects in the affected persons and their family. American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry had given guidelines for the treatment of heritable dental development anomalies including AI. (American Academy on Pediatric Dentistry Council on Clinical Affairs, 2008). Factors such as age, socio-economic status, type of AI and its severity have to be considered in treatment planning. Because AI is a rare developmental enamel disorder, there is no proper evidence-based clinical recommendation (Toupenay, 2018). The major concern of patients with AI were discolouration and poor appearances of their teeth., severe tooth sensitivity, dental caries and dental orthodontic problems (Koruyucu, 2014). The dentin and pulp are mostly spared and remain unaffected so restoration of the enamel defect is greatly enforced and proper oral hygiene maintenance is mandatory for good prognosis (DeSort, 1983). Treatment primarily aim to preserve the remaining tooth structure wherever possible and prevent further loss of tooth. It is essential to improve mastication efficiency and appearance because this will have greater impact on patient's psychology and confidence (Nigam, 2015). Management directed at three aspects of treatment includes prevention, restoration, and esthetics. Preventive aspects include dietary advice, regular use of fluoride mouthwashes, topical fluoride applications, and oral hygiene instructions. Restoration are based upon the type of dentition. GIC restorations should be advised in the primary dentition, direct and indirect composite resin veneers in the mixed dentition while porcelain veneers, full crowns, extractions of excessive defected teeth followed by fixed, or removable prosthesis should be advocated in permanent dentition based on number of teeth affected, patient age, and economical status. Resin composite veneer are generally preferred in AI patients to preserve tooth structure because it needs only a minimal preparation. Because of recent advancement in aesthetic dentistry, it is now able to achieve proper function and aesthetics in AI patients (Leevailoj, 2017).

Conclusion

Being a developmental disorder that is of more esthetic concern, the genetic basis of the disorder must be explained to the patients and education should be given. Considering the complexity of the condition and complications that could be encountered during treatment it makes it mandatory for the clinician to use various strategies that will improves the quality of life of the patient.

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