

Odontoma Symptoms, Causes, and Treatments

Odontoma may sound like a scary oral condition, but with the help of your doctor, it doesn't have to be. The non-cancerous tumor only requires a one-time removal treatment. And if you follow the proper aftercare practices, you'll be back to your regular pain-free routine in no time.

Read on to learn more about this condition, odontoma symptoms, odontoma radiology diagnosis, treatment options, and more.

What Is Odontoma?

[Odontoma](#) is a benign tumor that is commonly found in people 14-20 years of age. It is classified as tooth-forming tissue that grows internally and invades the jaw area of the mouth. The tumor takes on [calcified formations](#) and may contain many of the same tissues regular teeth do. In some cases, it can even take on the appearance of small teeth depending on the type.

Most of the time, odontoma symptoms are non-existent since they aren't always visible or cause pain. Pain-free or not, this condition must be treated with surgery to prevent damage to other teeth.

Types of Odontoma

To better understand what these non-cancerous tumors are, let's take a look at the two different types: compound and complex.

1. *Compound*

Compound odontoma appears in the lower jaw area and resembles a cluster of small teeth. Both men and women are equally affected, but this condition is more common in teenagers than adults.

2. *Complex*

Unlike compound, [complex](#) is not noticeably visible and is often found by accident during an X-ray. It resembles an impacted tooth, but is actually a large mass that is generally pain-free.

Much rarer than the compound type, complex occurs in the mandibular molar regions.

While these may be the two main types of odontomas, there are three other types not as common: central, peripheral, and erupted.

➤ *Central*

- Accounts for about 50% of all odontogenic tumors
- Mainly occurs in the front of either the upper or lower jaw

➤ ***Peripheral***

- Extremely rare, with only 6 known cases
- Usually diagnosed as a microscopic compound odontoma
- Only occurs in the soft tissue of the upper or lower jaw

➤ ***Erupted***

- Extremely rare, with only 11 known cases
- Develops in bone and leads to an erupted or impacted tooth

Odontoma Symptoms

Though generally painless, there are times where people who have this condition feel discomfort in their gums. Here's a few odontoma symptoms you should look out for:

- Tooth displacement
- Pain & swelling around tooth or gums
- Small clusters of teeth

Even if you aren't experiencing any of the above symptoms, it's still important to regularly schedule your dental visit to catch this condition.

Odontoma Radiology Diagnosis

Since this non-cancerous tumor isn't always visible or painful, [odontoma radiology diagnosis](#) is the best way to identify the condition. If you receive your routine X-rays from your dental check-ups, then your dentist can identify and treat the slow-growing tumor early on.

Even if your odontoma is visible without radiographic images, an odontoma radiology diagnosis, also known as an X-ray, is required. This helps your doctor learn the size, depth, and other features of the condition not visible to the naked eye. An X-ray also allows doctors to figure out if it's complex or compound, and come up with a plan of action.

Odontoma Treatment

The best way to treat odontoma is to surgically cut out the tumor. However, there are a few factors that affect the surgery process:

- Complex or compound
- The location
- If it's caused damage to other teeth

Once your doctor has properly identified your situation, they'll give you a detailed overview of the surgical process and help you prepare.

No matter your situation, your doctor will have to remove the tumor surgically by making a [small incision](#) in the gum to remove the odontoma.

Complex odontomas may require more surgical time and care if there have been eruption disturbances. If this is your case, then you may have to undergo a tooth extraction. Your doctor will discuss tooth replacement options with you. If your tooth alignment has been affected as well, then discuss realignment options with your doctor.

Odontoma Treatment Aftercare

After surgery, patients tend to bounce back quickly. The key to a healthy and speedy recovery is to follow all of the aftercare practices your doctor gives you.

Here are a few of the things your doctor may suggest after your removal surgery:

1. *Pain relief medicine*

Advil or Tylenol are common over-the-counter medications to help ease inflammation and pain. Most doctors tend to recommend a healthy use of these two medications rather than opioids.

2. *Icing*

Icing is a great way to decrease inflammation and pain naturally. Apply ice packs to your face over the area where the surgery was performed. Try icing in 15-minute intervals, meaning 15 minutes of icing, and 15 minutes without ice.

3. *Take it easy*

Your doctor will likely recommend that you rest for the first 24-48 hours after your surgery. This can look like the following:

- No physical exercise or other extraneous activities
- Avoid tasks that cause stress
- Get a healthy amount of sleep

4. *Keep it clean*

Like with any oral surgery, it's not uncommon for the area that's been operated on to bleed a little afterwards. Since the wound is still fresh and susceptible to bad bacteria, it's important to keep your mouth clean.

Your doctor will most likely recommend you brush your teeth with warm water without the use of toothpaste. A saltwater rinse is also common to do a few times a day to keep the area clean.

Follow your doctor's specific aftercare instructions to prevent any infections

Conclusion

Surgeries aren't necessarily pain-free, but they don't have to be stressful. Rest assured that patients recover quickly from odontoma removal surgery, and that these benign tumors aren't known to grow back.

While these tumors can cause damage to your teeth, they are highly treatable and often caught with odontoma radiology diagnosis (X-ray). Make sure you schedule your routine dental check-up to catch and treat any odontomas you may have.

Keywords: Odontoma, odontoma symptoms, odontoma radiology

Links to Sources: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4668987/>
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5034075/>
<https://www.hindawi.com/journals/crid/2014/854986/>
<https://www.verywellhealth.com/recovery-after-oral-surgery-1059383>
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8359878/>
<http://www.medicinaoral.com/medoralfree01/v10i3/medoralv10i3p248.pdf>

Word Count: 1006

Plagiarism Check: 0%

Keyword Density: Odontoma = 4.07% odontoma symptoms = 0.97% odontoma radiology = 0.97%
