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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

The frequency of occurrence of abnormal frenal attachment of lips and enamel defects in Turner syndrome

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OBJECTIVE: The aim of the work was to register the frequency of occurrence of abnormal frenal attachment of lips and enamel defects and find the correlation between these anomalies and three types of Turner syndrome.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: Fifty patients (aged 20-40 years) were clinically and cytogenetically diagnosed and divided into three groups, according to karyotype: 45,X (17 cases), with structural aberrations of chromosome X (12 cases) and with mosaic karyotype (21 cases). The control group consisted of 51 healthy woman aged 21-40 years. Subjects were screened for developmental anomalies in the labial frenula and enamel defects in three groups of Turner syndrome.

RESULTS: Some significant anomalies of soft and hard tissues were found in studied patients: abnormal frenal attachments (42% of cases), enamel opacities (58% of cases) and enamel hypoplasia (38% of cases). Differences in the occurrence of these anomaly in all group with Turner syndrome in comparison with the control group were significantly different. Enamel defects were prevalent in the patients with karyotype 45,X and patients with structural aberrations of chromosome X in comparison with the mosaic karyotype.

CONCLUSION: The results of the present study have shown, that abnormal attachment of lips and enamel defects were more frequent in Turner syndrome patients than in the control group. Enamel defects were correlated with the karyotypes of Turner syndrome and abnormal attachment of lips was not correlated with the karyotypes of Turner syndrome.

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Keywords: Turner syndrome; genetic diseases; dental anomalies

Introduction

Turner syndrome is a sex chromosomal disorder associated with a female phenotype. The pathophysiology of Turner syndrome is not understood. Many attempts have been made to correlate the type of X chromosome anomaly such as totally missing chromosome X (45X), aberrations of chromosome X (partial deletions of short and long arms, isochromosomes) and various mosaicisms in group of Turner syndrome individuals with their clinical features (Kusiak et al, 2000, 2005). The classical abnormalities of Turner syndrome include many somatic anomalies, such as short stature, infantile external genitalia, webbed neck, cubitus valgus, low hairline, shield-like chest, anomalies in the structure of some internal organs and others (Turner, 1938; Horowitz and Morishima, 1974; Palmer and Reichmann, 1976; Arulanantham et al, 1980; Jaspers and Witkop, 1980; Goldman et al, 1982; Hall and Gilchrist, 1990; Lippe, 1991; Pelz et al, 1991; Temtamy et al, 1992; Robinson and de la Chapelle, 1996; Lopez et al, 2002). Some oral abnormalities were also observed, such as malocclusion (Harju et al, 1989; Laine et al, 1992; Szilagyi et al, 2000), early development of permanent teeth (Filipsson et al, 1965), higharched palate (Horowitz and Morishima, 1974), small teeth (Townsend et al, 1984; Varrela et al, 1988; Mayhall et al, 1991; Mayhall and Alvesalo, 1992; Midtbo and Halse, 1994a,b; Townsend and Alvesalo, 1995; Kusiak et al, 2000; Szilagyi et al, 2000; Zilberman et al, 2000), crown hypoplasia (Lopez et al, 2002), abnormalities in intercuspal distance (Lopez et al, 2002) and abnormality of root morphology of mandibule were also observed (Varrela, 1990, 1992; Lopez et al, 2002; Kusiak et al, 2005).

The aim of the work was to register the frequency of occurrence of abnormal frenal attachment of lips and

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enamel defects and find the correlation between these anomalies with the karyotypes of Turner syndrome.

Material and methods

Fifty patients, aged 20–40 years (27.4 ± 4.2) with Turner syndrome were studied. The diagnoses of both Turner syndrome and karyotype were made at the Department of Biology and Genetics, Medical University of Gdańsk. Karyotype was determined by chromosome analysis of peripheral lymphocytes. Patients were divided into three groups according to their karyotypes:

- 45,X (n = 17);
- aberrations of chromosome X (*n* = 12): 46,X,del(Xq) (*n* = 4), 46,X,i(Xq) (*n* = 5), 46,X,inv(Xp) (*n* = 2), 46,X,r(X) (*n* = 1) and
- mosaic karyotype (n = 21): mos45,X/46,XX (n = 4); mos45,X/46,XY/47,XYY (n = 4); mos45,X/ 46,Xi(Xq) (n = 3); mos45,X/46,XX/47,XXX (n = 2); mos45,X/46,X,t(XX) (n = 2); mos46,XYinv(Yp)/ 45,Xinv(Xq) (n = 1); mos45,X/46,XinfY (n = 1); mos46,X(Xq)/45,X (n = 1); mos46,X,del(Xp)/47, Xdel(Xp)2X (n = 1); mos47,XXX/45,X (n = 1); mos45,X/46,X,r(Y) (n = 1).

The control group consisted of 51 healthy woman aged 21–40 years (31.5 ± 5.2) who underwent dental treatment at the Department of Conservative Dentistry, Medical University of Gdańsk, Poland. Ethical aspects of the research followed the Word Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki.

On evaluating the occurrence of soft tissues anomalies, attention was paid to the frenal attachment of lower and upper lips. The lip's frenula were evaluated on the basis of Plaček's classification (Mirko *et al*, 1974):

- Type 1 Frenula attached to alveolar mucosa ('mucosa-like')
- Type 2 Frenula attached to attached gingiva ('gingiva-like')
- Type 3 Frenula attached to interdental papilla ('papilla-like')
- Type 4 High frenula attachment ('penetrating papilla-like')

The teeth have been cleaned from debris, but not dried. Normal dental light providing illumination was used during the examinations of the teeth and one examiner carried out the examinations. All patients with Turner syndrome and the control group lived in an urban area north of Poland where the natural water contains 0.2 ppm fluor. None of them had fluoration treatment during their childhood nor adolescence. The type, number and location of defects were classified using the Developmental Defects of Enamel (DDE Index) (FDI Commission on Oral Health Research and Epidemiology, 1982). The DDE Index included three types of defects: opacities (white/cream, yellow/brown), hypoplasia (pits, horizontal grooves, vertical grooves, missing enamel) and discoloured enamel. Anomalies can occur as single or multiple well-demarcated areas or as diffuse patches or fine lines. Defect localisation was observed on buccal, lingual and occlusal surfaces. For documentational purposes, images of the cases were taken by DSC-F717 digital camera (Sony Corporation, Johor Bahru, Malaysia).

The results were statistically analysed by chi-squared test with Yates's adjustment, by means of which differences in the frequency of occurrence of the examined parameters in the patients with Turner syndrome and in the control group were compared.

Results

Numerous abnormalities within abnormal frenal attachment of lips and enamel defects in Turner syndrome patients were found.

Table 1 shows the frequencies of the abnormal frenal attachment and enamel defects in Turner syndrome patients with various aberrations of chromosome X and the control group. Nineteen patients had labial frenula with abnormal attachment as well as enamel defects; 31 patients had only one anomaly (two patients had abnormal attachment and 29 had enamel defects). No cases of Turner syndrome without anomaly were detected. Analysis of the oral soft tissues showed that abnormal frenal attachments had evident influence on the aetiopathogenesis recession of gingiva and gingivitis (Figure 1). Abnormal frenal attachment (lower and upper lips) was found in 42% of the patients with

 $\label{eq:table_$

Karyotype	Labial frenula with abnormal attachment N (%)	Enamel opacities N (%)	Enamel hypoplasia N (%)
45,X (n = 17)	7 (41) ^a	12 (71) ^f	8 (47) ^k
Structural aberrations of chromosome X (n = 12)	5 (42) ^b	8 (67) ^g	6 (50) ¹
Mosaics $(n = 21)$	9 $(43)^{c}$	$9(43)^{h}$	$5(23)^{m}$
Total $(n = 50)$	$21(42)^{d}$	$29(58)^{i}$	$19(38)^n$
Control group $(n = 51)$	4 (8) ^e	$10(20)^{j}$	$1(2)^{z}$

n, number of patients; N, number of patients with anomaly. P < 0.05 a-e, b-e, c-e, d-e, f-j, g-j, h-j, i-j, f-h, g-h, k-z, l-z, m-z, k-m, l-m, n-z.



Figure 1 Patient (H.U. age 40) with Turner syndrome with structural aberration of chromosome X labial frenula with attachment type 4, recession of gingiva- teeth 11, 23, enamel opacities teeth 13, 12, 11, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 35, 34, 33, 32, 21, 41, 42, 43, non-carious lesions teeth 13, 11, 23, 24, 25, 35, 34, 33, 32



Figure 2 Patient (I.M. age 38) with mosaic karyotype 46XX/45X – enamel opacities buccal surfaces, incisors and canines of maxilla and mandibula

Turner syndrome (type 2 'gingiva-like'- eight patients, type 3 ' papilla-like' - eight patients and type 4 'penetrating papilla-like' five patients) and in 8% of control subjects only (type 2 'gingiva-like'- lower lips in two patients and upper lips in two patients). Differences in frequency of these anomalies in patients with Turner syndrome and the control group were significant (P < 0.05). There were not statistically significant differences between 45,X and patients with structural aberrations of chromosome X and mosaics (Table 1).

Occurrence of developmental lesions within hard tissue's were more frequent (Table 1). It is evident that these alterations occurred more often within patients with Turner syndrome than in the control group. Enamel opacities in the form of white/cream spots were found mainly in 45,X (71% of cases) and structural aberrations of chromosome X (67% of cases). Frequency of enamel opacities was less in patients with mosaics (43% of cases) (Figure 2). Differences in frequency of this anomaly in patients with Turner syndrome and patients in control group were significant (P < 0.05). Defects were observed on labial or buccal surfaces of incisors, canines, premolars and molars as single well-demarcated areas both in Turner syndrome patients and those in the control group. No cases of single teeth with enamel defects in Turner syndrome were found. In 18 patients of Turner syndrome (two cases of 45.X, seven cases of structural aberrations of chromosome X and nine cases of mosaics) were found enamel opacities of incisors, canines and premolars. In 11 of 50 patients with Turner syndrome (10 patients with karyotype 45,X and in one patient with structural aberrations of chromosome X) enamel opacities of all teeth were observed. In nine of 10 patients in the control group were found enamel opacities of incisors, canines and premolars. Enamel opacities of all teeth were observed in one case of the control group. There were statistically significant differences between 45.X and these patients with structural aberrations of chromosome X and others where expressed mosaics. (P < 0.05).

Enamel hypoplasia was observed in 38% of Turner syndrome patients and only in 2% of the control group (Table 1). This anomaly as pits, horizontal grooves or vertical grooves on labial or buccal surfaces of incisors,



Figure 3 Patient (R.N. age 24) with Turner syndrome 45,X – enamel hypoplasia of buccal surfaces teeth 12, 11, 21, 22, 23, 33, 32, 42, 43 Tooth 41 with prosthetic crown. Gingivitis surrounding teeth 33, 32, 31, 41, 42, 43

canines and premolars was observed in two cases of 45,X, five cases of structural aberrations of chromosome X and four cases of mosaics (Figure 3). Enamel hypoplasia of all teeth was observed in eight of 50 patients with Turner syndrome: six cases of 45,X, one case of structural aberration of chromosome X and one case of mosaic karyotype. Only one patient with enamel hypoplasia as pits on labial incisors was found in control group. Differences in the frequency of this anomaly in patients with Turner syndrome and patients in control group were also significant (P < 0.05). There were statistically significant differences between 45,X and these patients with structural aberrations of chromosome \hat{X} and mosaics (P < 0.05). Enamel hypoplasia was found mostly in patients with karyotype with structural aberrations of chromosome X (50% of cases) and patients with karvotype 45X (47% of cases).

Discussion

Our study has shown that all patients with Turner syndrome had oral anomalies, which were rarely observed by other authors, especially descriptions concerning of soft tissues of the oral cavity. These occurred more often than in the control group. Labial frenula with abnormal attachment and other malformations in maxillofacial region were observed in orofacialdigital syndrome I by Gunbay (Gunbay et al, 1996). In Ellisvan Creveld syndrome (chondroectodermal dysplasia) some oral features eg. abnormal frenal attachment, congenital missing incisors, malocclusion and others were described (Hattab et al, 1998; De Felice et al, 2001). These development changes are well known essential factors in the origin of the gingival recession and gingivitis which require early corrective treatment (Addy et al, 1987; Peacock, 1998; Fowler and Breault, 2000; Jimenez et al, 2002).

In our studied lesions within the enamel, mainly the forms of opacities and hypoplasia, were often observed. These anomalies were observed most commonly in the 45,X group and structural aberrations of chromosome X. Lopez reported that about 78% patients with Turner syndrome had hypoplasia (Lopez *et al*, 2002). Defects of enamel in the other somatic diseases are often seen. Aine

et al (1990) reported dental enamel defects in adult patients with celiac disease. Unspecific enamel lesions were found in 80% cases with celiac diseases and in 18% cases in control group. Dental anomalies associated with hereditary disorders as amelogenesis imperfecta (Bäckman, 1988; Ooya et al, 1988; Collins et al, 1999), Morquio syndrome (Kinirons and Nelson, 1990; Rolling et al, 1999), epidermolisis bullosa (Wright et al, 1993) and tricho-dento-osseous syndrome (Jorgenson and Warson, 1973; Seow, 1993). Within the general population these anomalies are not often met. Umesi Koleoso (2004) reported adult population with enamel anomalies, 7% subjects presented enamel hypoplasia and 16% enamel opacities. Epidemiological study of idiopathic enamel hypomineralisation in permanent teeth of Swedish children showed enamel hypomineralisation from 4.4% to 15% of cases (Koch et al, 1987). Many authors reported that chromosome X controls of tooth size, shape, thickness of enamel and root morphology (Varrela et al. 1988: Mayhall et al. 1991: Mayhall and Alvesalo, 1992; Midtbo and Halse, 1994a; Kusiak et al, 2000). The absence of chromosome X is claimed to have a stronger influence on that condition. It also influences tooth crown size by many authors (Alvesalo and Tammisalo, 1981; Townsend et al, 1984; Varrela et al, 1988; Mayhall et al, 1991; Mayhall and Alvesalo, 1992; Midtbo and Halse, 1994a; Kusiak et al, 2000; Zilberman et al, 2000). Lopez et al (2002) reported less values of blood calcium and phosphorus determinations for most of patients with Turner syndrome which probably influence the hypoplastic appearance of Turner syndrome teeth. Furthermore, the study of Lau on the amelogenin gene responsible for amelogenesis inperfecta and other craniofacial diseases is relevant (Lau et al, 1990). From the studies conducted it transpires that the highest number of abnormal frenal attachment were observed in Turner syndrome when compared with control group. There were no statistically significant differences between 45X, these patients with structural aberrations of chromosome X and mosaics. Enamel defects occurred more often in Turner syndrome than in the control group. These defects were correlated with the type of chromosome X anomaly in Turner syndrome patients. There were statistically significant differences between 45X and patients with structural aberrations of chromosome X in comparison with the mosaic karyotype. Patients with mosaic karyotypes including normal cells are less likely to develop congenital abnormalities of the oral cavity.

Treatment of patients with Turner syndrome is necessary, especially 45X and these patients with structural aberrations of chromosome X by dental doctors of aesthetic dentistry and periodontology.

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