GANGLION OF TMJ

Ganglion of the Temporomandibular Joint

RYOSUKE SHIBA, DDS, PHD, TAKASHI SUYAMA, DDS, AND SUMIO SAKODA, DDS, PHD

A ganglion is a cystic enlargement of the synovium, also known as synovial cyst. It commonly occurs on the wrist, but is sometimes found on the dorsal surface of the foot, or close to the ankle or knee. However, a ganglion associated with the temporomandibular joint (TMJ) is very rare, with only six cases having been reported. This lesion of the TMJ is very difficult to diagnose correctly before surgical exploration, because of its rare occurrence and because there are no definitive means of differentiating it from other diseases with similar characteristics, such as parotid tumors, atheroma, neofibroma, and others.

Computed tomography (CT) is a useful tool in evaluating soft tissue lesions of the head and neck.

Methods to improve the immunological status of patients have been reviewed by Porter and Scully and have included transfer factor, thymosin, levamisole, transplantation of bone marrow or fetal thymic tissue, plasmapheresis and infusion of leukocytes. However, further trials need to be carried out before their more generalized use because the clinical and immunologic improvement often has been only transient.

References