

# The distribution of common oral lesions in infants attending the Department of Paediatric Dentistry, Hospital Sultan Ismail Petra

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## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Infants may exhibit some oral characteristics throughout the first few months of life that could also be caused by physiological changes associated with development or tumours, which can cause parents to be unsure. The purpose of this study was to determine the distribution of common oral lesions in infants visiting the Department of Paediatric Dentistry, Hospital Sultan Ismail Petra, Kelantan. The specific objectives were to study the socio-demographic data of infants with oral lesions, to determine the distribution of oral lesions in infants, to investigate whether oral lesions had any relationship with maternal medical problems, and to describe the diagnosis and management that have been carried out. **Materials and Methods:** This study was a cross-sectional retrospective study using secondary data from patient clinical records. The collected data was recorded in the data collection form. All infants from birth to 12 months old who were referred to our department for management of oral lesions between January 2019 and December 2021 were included in this study. The data were presented as percentages, and Pearson's Correlation was used for categorical comparison. A P-value of less than 0.05 was considered statistically significant. **Results:** This study enrolled 71 infants, with 46 (64.8%) boys and 25 (35.2%) girls. The infants were divided into three groups: 0–1 month old, 2–5 months old, and 6–12 months old. Clinical findings were more frequent in infants within the first month of life, with 92% being Malays and 8% Indians and others. This study found that the most common oral lesions were ankyloglossia (33.3%), followed by eruption cysts (25.0%), gingival cysts and Bohn's nodules (9.5%), lip frenulum and natal tooth (6.0%), oral candidiasis (2.4%), congenital epulis (1.2%), and congenital Blandin-Nuhn mucocele (1.2%). Six infants had more than one clinical finding at different sites. Our study observed that almost 60% of mothers with maternal medical problems had infants with oral lesions. Most of them had gestational diabetes mellitus, followed by anaemia and maternal obesity. Statistically, the data suggested that maternal medical problems and oral lesions were not related to each other. Oral lesions in infants were mainly managed with conservative management. However, dental extraction was done for selected natal/neonatal teeth, and surgical correction by frenotomy was performed for severe ankyloglossia. **Conclusion:** Ankyloglossia was the most common lesion referred to us and about 76% of the oral lesions in infants occur during the first month of life. All lesions found were benign, asymptomatic, and unrelated to maternal medical problems.