Maxillo-facial radiology case 137

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Below are clinical pictures and radiographs of patients presenting with a well demarcated focal mass occurring on the gingiva. Most reported series of cases show a predilection for occurrence in females with a mean age of 29 years. What is your diagnosis?

Considerable confusion has previously existed in distinguishing between the peripheral ossifying fibroma and the peripheral odontogenic fibroma and these lesions were often in fact regarded synonymously. They are now considered to be distinct and separate entities. The peripheral ossifying fibroma occurs exclusively on the gingiva. It appears as a nodular mass, either pedunculated or sessile, that usually emanates from the interdental papilla and the colour ranges from red to pink. Most lesions are less than 2cm in size, although larger ones occasionally occur (Fig. D). The lesion predominates amongst teenagers and young adults, with peak prevalence between ages of 10 and 19. Almost two thirds of all cases occur in females. There is a slight predilection for the maxillary arch, and more than 50% of all cases occur in the incisor/cuspid region. Usually the teeth are unaffected. Radiologically, peripheral ossifying fibromas are initially radiolucent and gradually develop increasing amounts of calcification/ossification as they mature (Fig. E). In very rare cases peripheral ossifying fibroma may present simultaneously in both the upper and lower jaws (Fig. F).

Reference