Below are two cases of a lesion that is not commonly seen in the jaws but has been found in most bones of the skeleton; however the majority occur in the long bones and in the spine. Discuss the radiological features and what is your diagnosis?

**INTERPRETATION**

Case 1 is a sixteen year old male (Fig.A) who presented with a history of a rapidly growing painful swelling in the lower left jaw causing displacement of the 37,38 (Fig.B) and ballooning expansion (red arrow) of the alveolar bone (Fig.C). The patient was referred for a biopsy. An Axial CT view of the lesion showed an expansive ballooned-out appearance with a thin cortex outline and presence of internal trabeculation (Fig.D). Figure E is an axial MR T2 image showing a hyperintense lesion with septate and buccal and lingual expansion. A histological diagnosis of an aneurysmal bone cyst was made. The aneurysmal bone cyst is an uncommon lesion and is a very rare finding in the jaws. The true nature of the lesion remains uncertain, although most pathologists regard it as probably reactive. Although the lesion is characteristically cystic and blood filled, the term “aneurysmal bone cyst” was suggested by Jaffe and Lichtenstein (1942) who described the characteristic “blown out” contour of the bone seen in radiographs of the lesion. The aneurysmal bone cyst has a characteristic “ballooning” growth pattern which results in a radiolucent area with elevation of the periodontal ligament producing an ovular or fusiform expansion of bone with the typical cortical expansion (Fig.G). The cyst constitutes only 1% of all non-odontogenic, non-epithelial cysts of the jaws. They most commonly occur in the long bones and the spine. Almost all lesions affecting the jaws present in the mandible, especially the posterior body and vertical ramus. They are found predominantly in young patients, rarely manifesting after the third decade of life with no gender predilection. Perforation of the cortex, pain and tenderness to palpation has been reported. Treatment of choice consists of enucleation with thorough curettage.

**References:**


CJ Nortje: BChD, PhD, ABOMR, DDS, Faculty of Dentistry, University of the Western Cape, E-mail: cjin@uc.ac.za