

Cyst

A cyst is a sac containing liquid or semi solid substance. Ordinarily cyst has an inner lining of secreting membrane. Occasionally a cyst may contain a solid structure like tooth, hair etc. Examples are dentigerous cyst, dermoid cyst.

Varieties of cyst :

- i) retention of cyst arising from occlusion of a duct or gland, e.g. salivary cyst, ranula, honey cyst
- ii) Exudation cyst due to accumulation of fluid in a preexisting cavity, e.g. hydrocele
- iii) Congenital cyst present at birth, due to failure of an embryonic cavity to close, e.g. urachal cyst
- iv) Cyst developing from misplaced embryonic tissue e.g. dermoid cyst, dentigerous cyst.
- v) Encapsulation cyst formed around foreign bodies and parasites
- vi) Degeneration cyst resulting from degeneration of a new growth.

Diagnosis :

Cysts are non-inflammatory and slow in development. They have a well defined periphery. A cyst containing fluid will fluctuate uniformly. If the contents are semi – solid and hard it fluctuates *en masse*. A cyst is easily differentiated from an inflammatory swelling, abscess and haematoma. Exploratory puncture may help in confirming diagnosis.

Treatment :

- i) The cyst is punctured with a inoculation needle and the content are evacuated. An irritant solution like Tr. Iodine is then injected into the cavity to destroy the lining membrane. During the healing process, the cavity of the cyst may get obliterated.
- ii) Excision of the cyst is the best method of treatment when it is practicable. The cyst is isolated from surrounding tissues by dissecting around it under local or general anesthesia .