

Salivary Mucocele Formation Following Dental Extractions In Dogs

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A sialocele, or salivary mucocele, is an accumulation of saliva within subcutaneous tissue resulting from disruption of a salivary gland or its duct.¹ Whilst trauma is a well-documented cause of sialoceles, their occurrence following dental procedures remains poorly characterised in dogs.² This case series aims to document the diagnosis, management, and clinical outcomes of salivary mucoceles in four dogs following dental extractions.

Four dogs were referred to a veterinary specialist centre for investigation and treatment of suspected sialoceles. Three of the dogs developed zygomatic sialoceles following maxillary molar extractions, while one dog developed a sublingual sialocele after mandibular premolar and molar extractions. Clinical signs developed between three and fourteen days post-extraction. As part of diagnostic work up, all dogs underwent a CT scan of the head and neck to confirm the source of swelling. Three dogs underwent surgical excision of the affected salivary gland, with histopathology revealing no evidence of infection or neoplasia. In one dog, clinical signs resolved following glandular drainage alone. All cases had complete resolution of clinical signs following treatment with no recurrence during the follow-up period.



Sialocele formation appears to be a rare yet clinically significant complication following dental extractions in dogs. Awareness of this potential adverse event is essential for early diagnosis and appropriate management. Clinicians should monitor patients for associated clinical signs following dental procedures to ensure timely intervention.

1. Johnston SA, Tobias KM. Salivary Glands. In: *Veterinary Surgery Small Animal*. 2nd end. Elsevier, Missouri, 2018;1653–63.
2. Bellenger CR, Simpson DJ. Canine sialocoeles - 60 clinical cases. *J Small Anim Pract*. 1992;33(8):376–80.
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