

# Orofacial Diseases at Autopsy in University of Benin Teaching Hospital, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

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## INTRODUCTION

Beyond revealing the identity of the unknown, autopsies among other benefits can assist with environmental investigations, lifestyle related diseases, cultural and geographical influences, early detection of chronic diseases and most importantly can influence health policy. Oral and maxillofacial pathologists have paid little or no attention to orofacial diseases at autopsy in our environment. These orofacial diseases have been grouped into neoplastic and non- neoplastic. The objective was to study the prevalence and types of orofacial diseases seen at autopsy in the University of Benin Teaching Hospital, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria.

## METHODS

This was a descriptive cross-sectional study of the prevalence and types of orofacial diseases at autopsy. This was done on fresh corpses that met the inclusion criteria and that were preserved in the mortuary of the Department of Anatomical Pathology, University of Benin Teaching Hospital, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria. Corpses were examined and specimens collected from corpses with orofacial diseases. Collected specimens were subjected to histopathological and microbiological examinations as applicable. Result from these examinations were grouped into neoplastic and non- neoplastic orofacial diseases.

## RESULTS

One hundred and fifty fresh corpses were included in this study. Their age ranged from 1day old to 87years with a mean age of  $50.19 \pm 23.0$  years. Among the 150 participants, 87 (58.0%) had orofacial diseases at autopsy. Among the 87 participants with orofacial diseases, 2(2.30%) had neoplastic disease(malignant) while 85(97.30%) had non-neoplastic diseases. A total of 114 different non-neoplastic diseases were noted, which were further grouped into hard tissue diseases 33(28.95%) and soft tissue diseases 81(71.05). The hard tissue diseases were; dental caries 6(18.18%), missing teeth 17(51.52%), fractured teeth 1(3.03%), attrition 2(6.06%), cervical abrasion 4(12.12%), attrition and cervical abrasion 2(6.06%) and peg-shaped lateral 1(3.03%). The soft tissue diseases were; gingival diseases 61(75.31%), soft tissue infections 9(11.11%), inflammatory diseases 6(7.41%), and reactive diseases 5(6.17%).

## CONCLUSION

The high prevalence of orofacial diseases at autopsy in this study gives insight to the frequency of undiagnosed/untreated oral diseases while patient was alive and the need for more public dental health awareness in other to improve the poor oral health seeking behaviour among live patients.

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**Conflicts of interest**

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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