



Foreign body in craniofacial orifices in children: Query parental indictment



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Abstract

Introduction: The increasing economic and pecuniary pressure on families incurred by contemporary lifestyle in a continuously evolving world has led parents especially mothers to engage in jobs that are more time mortgaging. This leads to reduced supervision of growing children among several families. At the same time, the prevalence of foreign body in craniofacial orifices in children is on the increase, without any audacious attempt to decode the *raison d'être*. In addition, early childhood explorative tendencies of putting objects in their craniofacial orifices further predisposes them to foreign body aspiration and ingestion. This study highlights some of the preceding circumstances prior to the lodging of foreign body in the craniofacial orifice in children seen in our hospital, with the aim of ascertaining the dynamics of parental factor in children putting objects in their craniofacial orifices. It also emphasizes the need for enlightenment and counselling of parents or guardians in the prevention and management of these cases, which may lead to foreign body ingestion and aspiration in children.

Patients and methods: The study was carried out in the University of Port Harcourt Teaching hospital (UPTH), Rivers state, Nigeria. The names of children who presented to the Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic of UPTH with foreign body aspiration or foreign body ingestion from July 2018 to June 2019 were collected. After due permission was gotten, their medical records were retrieved from Hospital medical records department. The data collected were age and sex of the children, occupation of parents, and preceding circumstance to foreign body ingestion or aspiration. The data was presented in simple tables and figures.

Results: This was a retrospective analysis of the 57 cases of foreign body in the craniofacial orifices (ear, nose and throat) seen in the Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) clinic of the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital, Rivers state, Nigeria. Among these 57 cases were 36 males and 21 females. 86% (49) of the patients were 1-14 years, and 29 (59.2%) of the paediatric patients were less than five years. Among this paediatric population, the age category of 3-4 years had the highest number of foreign bodies in the craniofacial orifices (15), followed by 1-2 years age category (14). The age category of 5-6 followed with 11 foreign bodies. The ear was the orifice with the highest number of foreign bodies, with 35 (62.5%) objects. Among the fathers of the 49 children, five fathers are unemployed, while among the mothers, two are full housewives without any other form of engagement.

Conclusion: As much as foreign body ingestion and aspiration is common among children under five years, its possibility is further enhanced when mothers or primary caregivers are encumbered with other responsibilities that limit the active supervision of these growing children. Therefore, an increase in the level of societal awareness as regards the prevention and likely complications of foreign body in craniofacial orifices, coupled with adequate counseling of parents and caregivers will help to reduce prevalence of both foreign body in craniofacial orifices, and foreign body ingestion and aspiration in children.

Biography

Osuji Adaobi Elizabeth is an Otorhinolaryngologist with the Ear, Nose and Throat Department, University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital, Rivers State, Nigeria. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Physiology from the University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria, where she was the Best in her graduating class. She went on to bag an MBBS degree from the same University in Nigeria. She is a Fellow of the West African College of Surgeons (ORL) and an Associate fellow of the Medical College of ORL in Nigeria. She has a passion for assisting people with Hearing disability, for which she became Founder and President of a Hearing Disability Foundation named Hear-A-Voice Foundation. Her Foundation has impacted on the lives of several people in Nigeria through their massive awareness campaign especially in Rivers state where the foundation has its headquarters and has also assisted some indigent people with free hearing aids. She has well over 20 publications, in local and international journals, including a book chapter in an international book titled *Air Quality in the 21st century* by Nova Publishers. She is currently involved in more researches. Her Passion for Audiology as a subspecialty, made her seek higher specialized studies in Audio-vestibular medicine. She is currently a Commonwealth Scholar pursuing a master's degree in her chosen field of Audiology in the University College London, UK. She is also a member of the Editorial boards of two prestigious international Otorhinolaryngology journals. She is Married and blessed with children.



[11th International Conference on Otolaryngology: ENT Surgery, July 21, 2020](#)

Citation: Osuji Adaobi Elizabeth, *Foreign body in craniofacial orifices in children: Query parental indictment*, Otolaryngology 2020, 11th International Conference on Otolaryngology: ENT Surgery, July 21, 2020, Pages 12