Juxtaoral Organ of Chievitz and the Scientist Behind It

Daifullah Al Aboud, Khalid Al Aboud, Hassan Al Qurashi

ABSTRACT
The juxtaoral organ of Chievitz (JOOC) is a normal permanent anatomical structure located within the soft tissue overlying the angle of the mandible in the buccotemporal space. It is considered of neuroepithelial origin with no known function. In children, the normal organ may be discovered as a small mass in the cheeks, which may lead to extensive and unnecessary investigations. Chievitz first described JOOC in 1885 while studying human embryos. The aim of this review is to draw attention to the clinical importance of this organ and to provide a concise biography on the scientist who first described it.

Keywords: Eponym, Juxtaoral organ of Chievitz, Oral pathology, Tumor.

INTRODUCTION
The juxtaoral organ of Chievitz (JOOC) is a normal permanent anatomical structure located within the soft tissue overlying the angle of the mandible in the buccotemporal space. It was first described by, JH Chievitz, a Danish anatomist in 1885. He described epithelial nests without ductal structures, which were related to the buccal nerve, developing and disappearing during the embryonal period. Originally, thought to exist during embryogenesis. However, in 1953, Zenker proved that it can be found in adult humans. It is also seen in many other mammals and in reptiles.

JUXTAORAL ORGAN OF CHIEVITZ
The juxtaoral organ of Chievitz is a normal permanent anatomical structure located within the soft tissue overlying the angle of the mandible in the buccotemporal space. It was first described by, JH Chievitz, a Danish anatomist in 1885. He described epithelial nests without ductal structures, which were related to the buccal nerve, developing and disappearing during the embryonal period. Originally, thought to exist during embryogenesis. However, in 1953, Zenker proved that it can be found in adult humans. It is also seen in many other mammals and in reptiles.

JOHAN HENRIK CHIEVITZ (1851-1901)
Johan Henrik Chievitz (1851-1901) (Fig. 2), was a Danish anatomist. He was born on 16 October 1850, in Svendborg which is a town on the island of Funen in south central Denmark.
There are no publications on Professor Chievitz, in the English language, literature and all the information listed here are based on reference number.¹¹

Chievitz graduated in 1869 from Sorø, which is a town in region Sjælland on the island of Zealand (Sjælland) in east Denmark. He got his medical degree in 1875. He practiced a short time before he was employed in 1877, in the anatomy under Professor Theodor Schmidt (1825-1880). In 1881, he won the university’s gold medal for a thesis on ossification. After Professor Schmidt’s death, he was given leave to study further in Leipzig, in Germany. When he returned to Copenhagen, he took classes in anatomy and was appointed in 1881 as associate professor in the anatomy. In 1888, he became professor of anatomy.

Professor Chievitz’s health was not strong, and as a result of infection which he may get from his work he contracted pulmonary tuberculosis and later the laryngeal tuberculosis which greatly reduced his activities. Despite an improvement after a long stay in Switzerland and Italy, between 1893 and 1894, he was never completely healthy, his zeal diminished.

Professor Chievitz’s scientific works are not numerous, but highly worthwhile, distinguished by reliability and thoroughness. In teaching, he continued the best traditions of the Danish school represented by his two immediate predecessors Professor Theodor Schmidt (1825-1880) and Professor IB Pedersen Ibsen (1801-1862). He made a great scientific contribution, in particular to salivary glands and retina development. In addition, he wrote an excellent textbook on fetal development (1891, 2nd ed. 1898).

JOOC is named for him after his description in 1885. He noted it in 10-week-old embryos during his study on the development of salivary glands.¹⁰

Professor Chievitz died in Copenhagen on 6 October 1901.

REFERENCES


Fig. 2: Johan Henrik Chievitz (1851-1901) (Courtesy: The Royal Library, Denmark)