ANTROLITH

By H. WICKHAM (Sunderland)

THE recent interesting paper on Antral Rhinolithiasis by D. J. Brain brought to light two rather surprising facts. These are (1) the small number of such cases which have been reported and (2) the infrequency of finding a tooth, or part of a tooth, forming the central nucleus of the stone. Of the fourteen cases recorded, in only one was a tooth root the nucleus of the stone.

I submit that antrolith is the correct term for this condition. The word rhinolith means "nasal calculus" or "concretion in the nose". "Antral rhinolith" would suggest that a rhinolith has eroded the naso-antral wall and is now present wholly or partly in the antrum.

A further case history is considered worth recording, in view of the facts already mentioned:

T.B., a man of 50 years, was first seen on *13.11.56* having been referred from the Eye Infirmary, Sunderland. He was suffering from acute iritis of the right eye and his sinuses had been X-rayed in a search for a focus of infection. The X-rays revealed a generalized and marked opacity of the right antrum consistent with maxillary sinusitis.

Antral lavage produced a large amount of offensive pus. The patient was too ill to attend the following week but reported again seventeen days after his original attendance (*30.11.56*) when antral lavage again produced offensive pus + +. Three further washouts were carried out at weekly intervals without any amelioration in the infection. He was therefore admitted to hospital and a right Caldwell-Luc operation was performed on *7.1.57*. The findings at operation were:

(1) empyema of antrum, the sinus being full of thick offensive pus;

(2) a staghorn antrolith.

His convalescence was uneventful and his condition remained satisfactory thereafter.

The stone was sent for examination in the Laboratory and the following report was received:

"The dried stone was greyish coloured and of irregular shape; length 20 mm. and thickness varying from 5 mm. to 10 mm. Weight 1·6 gm. On powdering a tooth root was found in the centre of the stone. Chemical composition = calcium phosphate with some magnesium."

I wish to record my thanks to Mr. R. E. Jowett for permission to publish this case history and to Dr. J. F. Wilson and Dr. P. Trinder for the analysis of the stone.

REFERENCE

BRAIN, D. J. (1960) *J. Laryng.*, **74**, 42.

Royal Infirmary,
Sunderland

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