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| **Name:** |
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| **Group:** |
| 4B-3 |
| **Basic Science Question:** |
| What are tori/bony exostoses and how do they form? |
| **Report:** |
| Bony exostosis is a general term to describe an abnormal bone growth that forms into a bump or nodule. In the oral cavity, these bone growths are known as buccal exostosis when they occur on the buccal side of the alveolar process in both the maxilla and mandible. When they appear on the lingual side of the mandibular alveolar process, they are called tori mandibularis. Exostoses that originate from the hard palate are known as tori palatinus. Some literature identifies a third tori, tori maxillaris, as being different from tori palatinus and originating from the molar region of the lingual side of the maxillary alveolar process.  Exostoses and tori form due to excess osteoblast activity. Unlike what happens during normal bone remodeling where osteoclast and osteoblast activity cancel out, the osteoblasts that cause tori add bone on top of normal bone surface, leading to a thickening of the bone. This unusual osteoblast activity is very localized, however, which leads to the formation of a lump or nodule that is continuous with the surrounding bone rather than generalized bone thickening. This growth typically becomes apparent as a young adult. |
| **References:** |
| Scully, C. (2012). Seciton 16: Lumps and swellings in the jaws. In *Oral and Maxillofacial Medicine - E-Book The Basis of Diagnosis and Treatment* (pp. 121-124). London: Elsevier Health Sciences.  Santhanakrishnan, M., & Rangarao, S. (2014). Mandibular Tori: A source of autogenous bone graft. *Journal of Indian Society of Periodontology,* *18*(6), 765. doi:10.4103/0972-124x.147423 |