

Case 42 A lump on the lip



Figure 42.1

Figure 42.1 demonstrates the lips of a 20-year-old engineering student who presented with this painless, blue cystic lesion on the lower lip. He was concerned about its appearance and the fact that he kept biting it.

What is this lesion called?

This is the typical appearance of a mucous retention cyst of the lower lip. It really could not be anything else.

What is its aetiology?

Leakage of mucus beneath the mucosa due to minor trauma to the mucous glands of the lip.

These cysts contain clear, colourless mucus. Why then do they appear blue?

Reflected light – in the same way that the sea appears green or blue.

How do these cysts bother the patient?

Exactly as in this case. Patients do not like their appearance and they get caught between the teeth.

What treatment would you advise?

Surgical excision with suture of the defect using absorbable sutures. This was duly performed on this patient under local anaesthesia in the day surgery unit.