

We Believe in Saving faces:

A Smarter Way to Treat Hidden Jaw Cysts

Most people don't realize that some jaw problems can grow silently for months—or even years—without causing much trouble. One such condition is called an Odontogenic Keratocyst (OKC). While it is not cancer, it can behave quite aggressively, slowly expanding inside the jawbone and sometimes coming back even after years of treatment.

Earlier, the treatment for large OKCs was often quite drastic. Surgeons had to remove a part of the jaw (a procedure called resection) to make sure the disease didn't return. While this approach worked, it came at a cost—patients could lose a portion of their jaw, affecting their facial appearance, speech, and ability to chew properly.

But things are changing.

Today, there is a clear shift toward more conservative and patient-friendly treatment methods. Instead of immediately removing the jaw, doctors now focus on saving it whenever possible. Techniques like gradual decompression help reduce the size of the cyst over time, newer adjuncts to surgical treatment allowing the bone to heal naturally with less recurrence chances. Once the cyst becomes smaller, it can be removed more safely with minimal damage to surrounding structures.

At the Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, Saraswati Hospital & Research Centre (SHRC), this approach is not just a concept—it's a practice. The experienced and dynamic surgical team of Dr. Sapna

Tandon and Dr. Himanshu Chauhan strongly believe that even in difficult cases, the jaw can often be preserved when treated with the right planning and care.

Their approach combines careful diagnosis, staged treatment, and the use of newer adjunctive therapies that help reduce recurrence and promote healing. This means patients not only get treated effectively but also retain their natural jaw, appearance, and confidence.

What truly makes a difference is the philosophy—treat the disease, but don't sacrifice what can be saved.

With proper follow-up and modern techniques, even conditions once thought to require major surgery can now be managed in a much more balanced and thoughtful way.

We have so many beautiful stories to share but sharing a case of one young unmarried male referred to us from Lakhimpur feels appropriate. where the cyst almost destroyed the entire half of the jaw, Resection seemed to be the only option. But we didn't believe so our surgeons utilised dredging method along with newer adjuncts like 5FU and saved the jaw. He today walks with confidence and smile, thankful to God and his surgeons, with her jaw fully formed.

Sometimes, the best surgery is the one that saves more than it removes.