

Fibrous Cortical Defects

The fibrous cortical defect is a very small metaphyseal lesion seen in long bones, typically around the knee joint in children. It is usually picked up on a routine radiograph as an incidental finding. It is considered dysplastic or hamartomatous lesion and is very common with about a 25 per cent incidence in normal children around the age of four to five years. As the child matures, the lesion will disappear by a process of skeletal remodeling. In most cases, the diagnosis is obvious based on a simple radiographic study. Microscopically, the lesion is filled with benign fibroblastic cells forming collagen and usually does not demonstrate macrophage or inflammatory activity.