Tooth, Pulp – Osteodentin

**Figure Legend:** 
**Figure 1** Tooth, Pulp - Osteodentin in a male F344/N rat from a chronic study. There is a small deposit of osteodentin (arrow) in the pulp cavity. **Figure 2** Tooth, Pulp - Osteodentin in a male F344/N rat from a chronic study (higher magnification of Figure 1). The osteodentin (arrow) appears mineralized. **Figure 3** Tooth, Pulp - Osteodentin in a female F344/N rat from a subchronic study. There are large deposits of osteodentin (arrow) that nearly fill the pulp cavity. **Figure 4** Tooth, Pulp - Osteodentin in a female F344/N rat from a subchronic study (higher magnification of Figure 3). The osteodentin (arrow) is not mineralized in this case.

**Comment:** Osteodentin is formed after injury to the pulp or displacement of odontoblasts. If a tooth fractures, the pulp chamber will fill with this material in order to seal it off. This type of reaction can also
occur as a secondary reparative response to add strength to teeth with altered or disrupted
growth/eruption and/or teeth under altered biomechanical stress.

The rate of osteodentin deposition depends on the intensity and duration of the stimulus; the more 
severe the stimulus/injury, the more rapid the rate of osteodentin deposition. The type of stimulus has 
an effect on the architecture and structure of the osteodentin. If the stimulus is a carious lesion, there is 
extensive destruction of dentin and damage to the pulp, due to the differentiation of bacterial 
metabolites and toxins. Thus, osteodentin is deposited rapidly, with a sparse and irregular tubular 
pattern and some cellular inclusions. After rapid deposition, odontoblasts become trapped in the newly 
formed matrix, and the tubular pattern becomes obscured or distorted. Formation may be solitary 
(Figure 1 and Figure 2, arrows), multiple, or diffuse (Figure 3 and Figure 4, arrows). Some test articles 
can directly or indirectly cause undifferentiated pulp mesenchymal cells within the cell-rich zone to 
terminally differentiate into odontoblast-like cells and deposit osteodentin within the pulp. Osteodentin 
deposits may resemble bone, osteoid, predentin, or dentin in the pulp cavity.

Recommendation: Osteodentin should be diagnosed and graded based on the number and size of 
areas of osteodentin formation. Any damage to the tooth or odontoblasts, if present, should be 
diagnosed and graded separately, and the association between the two should be made clear in the 
pathology narrative.

References:

National Toxicology Program. 1996. NTP TR-393. Toxicology and Carcinogenesis Studies of Sodium 
Fluoride (CAS No. 7681-49-4) in F344/N Rats and B6C3F1 Mice (Drinking Water Studies). NTP, 
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