TO THE EDITOR

ERUPTED SUPERNUMERARY TEETH IN UNUSUAL POSITIONS

Dentes supranumerários em posições incomuns

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Although anomalies of tooth number and form are quite common, we present two cases which demonstrate a supernumerary tooth illustrating its development in an unusual site. To the best of our knowledge only one case describes erupted supernumerary in the mandibular molar region.

Case 1 - A 33 year old male reporting for routine dental check up revealed a small erupted conical shaped tooth in place of right mandibular first molar which was morphologically identical to the mandibular premolar (Figure 1). However the patient gave history of extraction of the first molar a few years back as it was decayed. Radiographic examination (Figure 2) revealed the presence of an extra tooth in place of the right mandibular first molar. No treatment was instituted because of financial constraints. Figures 3 and 4 show a similar case (Case 2) where the supernumerary tooth was erupted in the mandibular 2nd molar region.

Figure 1 - A small erupted conical shaped tooth in place of right mandibular first molar

Figure 2 - Periapical image of an extra tooth in place of the right mandibular first molar

Figure 3 - A supermunerary tooth erupted in the 2nd molar region

Figure 4 - Periapical image of the supermunerary tooth erupted in the 2nd molar region

Supernumerary teeth are defined as an excess in the number of teeth when compared to the normal dental formula (1). They are more prevalent in the permanent dentition, with reports of between one and three percent of the general population affected (1). The majority, however, are found in the maxilla (90–98 per cent), with 90 per cent of these being located in the premaxilla

region (2). Supernumerary premolars are said to represent between 8% and 9% percent of all supernumerary teeth (1, 2). Unlike other supernumeraries, they are more likely to develop in the mandible than the maxilla and usually resemble normal premolars in shape and size.

When supernumerary teeth are discovered, a decision needs to be made whether to remove or monitor them. If left, supernumerary teeth may disrupt the occlusion. As in the case presented in this paper, the discovery of a supernumerary tooth is often an incidental finding on routine examination. This stresses the importance of thorough clinical and radiographic survey prior to commencing any treatment.

INFORMED CONSENT STATEMENT

The patient signed an informed consent, kept in the records, in the archives of the Manipal College of Dentistry.

REFERENCES

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