Mandibular midline supernumerary tooth: a case report

Sharma A. * Rohtak.

GOVERNMENT DENTAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL

Occurrence of a supernumerary tooth in the mandibular incisor region is uncommon. This report describes a rare case of mandibular midline supernumerary tooth causing crowding in the anterior region. The supernumerary tooth was extracted.


KEY WORDS: Supernumerary tooth, Mandibular incisor region.

Supernumerary teeth are excess number of teeth as compared to the normal dental formula. The etiology of supernumerary teeth is not well understood. It includes atavism, a split in the tooth bud, locally conditioned hyperactivity of dental lamina and a combination of genetic and environmental factors.

The prevalence of supernumerary teeth ranges from 0.15 to 3.8 percent in different populations, with a higher frequency among Asians1-4. Approximately 90-98 percent of all supernumeraries occur in the maxilla with a particular predilection for the premaxilla5,6. The most common supernumerary tooth is the mesiodens, which is located between the maxillary central incisors, followed by maxillary fourth molars, mandibular molars, premolars, cuspids and lateral incisors7. A supernumerary tooth in the mandibular incisor region is very rare and comprises only 2 percent of the supernumerary teeth9.

CASE REPORT

A nine year old male reported to the Department of Pedodontics and Preventive Dentistry with the chief complaint of irregular lower front teeth. His family and medical histories were non-contributory. Extra oral examination did not show any abnormality. Intra oral examination revealed a mixed dentition stage with class I molar relationship. Crowding was evident in the mandibular anterior region due to an erupted, supplemental supernumerary tooth in the midline and retained right deciduous lateral incisor. The mandibular occlusal view radiograph confirmed the same (Fig. 1). The supernumerary tooth and the retained deciduous tooth were extracted and orthodontic therapy was advised.

DISCUSSION

The present case is quite unusual as an erupted supernumerary tooth between the mandibular central incisors has been seldom reported in the literature. A large percentage of anterior supernumerary teeth remain unerupted (approximately 75%), while 25% are partially or fully erupted3,7. The incidence of supernumeraries in the lower incisor region is low and these are usually of the supplemental type8.

Supplemental teeth as the name implies refers to the duplication of teeth in the normal series. In the permanent
dentition they appear most commonly as extra maxillary and mandibular lateral incisors, whereas in the primary dentition, they are most likely to appear as upper central incisors. It may be difficult to distinguish the normal tooth from its supplemental "twin". A supplemental tooth may exhibit a deep palatal pit with a coronal invagination. Supplemental supernumerary teeth increase the potential for the crowding and may cause an esthetic problem. If both teeth are equally well formed the tooth that is displaced the most is to be extracted.

REFERENCES


Reprint requests to:
Dr. Amita Sharma
48/9J, Medical Campus
Rohtak-124001 (Haryana) India.