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CASE REPORT

A RARE CASE OF SUPERNUMERARY TEETH IN PRIMARY AND PERMANENT DENTITIONS OF A CHILD

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ABSTRACT

An unusual case of simultaneous presence of supernumerary teeth in primary and permanent dentition is presented and discussed. Presence of supernumerary tooth in the primary dentition itself is a rare phenomenon. Early diagnosis is essential to avoid complications.

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INTRODUCTION

Supernumerary teeth denote teeth formed in a number in excess of that found in the normal series, varied in their form and location, single or multiple, unilateral or bilateral, erupted or impacted. There are several theories regarding the development of a supernumerary tooth – dichotomy of the tooth germ, atavism, local hyperactivity of the dental lamina and a combination of genetic and environmental factors. Supernumerary teeth are found more often in permanent dentition than in primary dentition. The prevalence ranges from 0.15 to 3.8 percent in the permanent dentition and from 0.03 to 1.9 percent in the primary dentition. There is a tendency for occurrence of supernumerary teeth in both the primary and permanent dentitions of the same child (Hattab *et al*., 1994; Sykaras, 1975).

Case Report

A five and a half-year-old boy reported to the department with the chief complaint of a tooth erupting behind the upper front teeth. His family, medical and dental histories were noncontributory. Extraoral examination did not reveal any abnormality. On intraoral examination a full complement of primary dentition was seen. An extra tooth palatal to right maxillary primary central incisor was observed (Fig 1).

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Radiographic examination confirmed a well formed erupted conical supernumerary tooth and revealed the presence of another unerupted supernumerary tooth in relation to left maxillary permanent central incisor (Fig. 2).

Figure 1. Intraoral photograph showing palatally erupting supernumerary tooth in relation to 51

The erupted supernumerary tooth was extracted under local anesthesia. The patient was called for regular follow-up to monitor the eruption of permanent central incisors and associated unerupted molariform supernumerary tooth (Fig. 3 and 4).

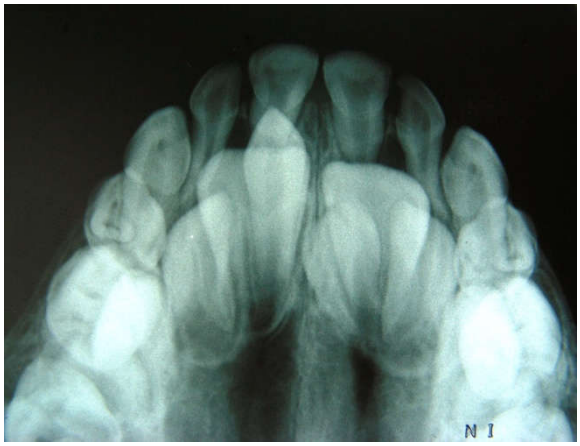

Figure 2. Radiograph showing an erupted conical supernumerary tooth palatal to 51 and an unerupted supernumerary tooth in relation to 21

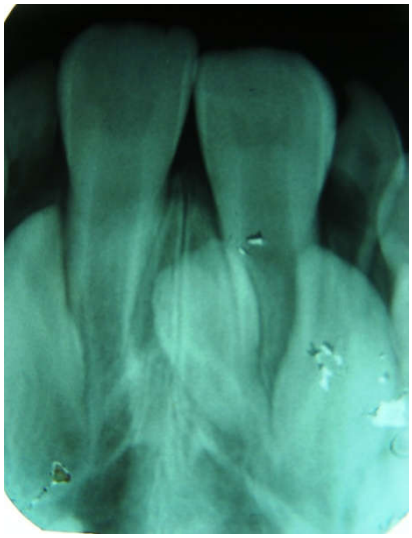

Figure 3. After 12months, the permanent central incisors were fully erupted.

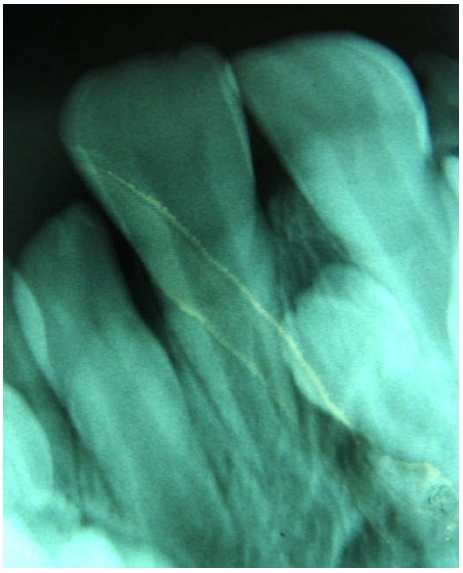

Figure 4. After 18 months, the unerupted well formed molariform supernumerary tooth was asymptomatic

DISCUSSION

Supernumerary teeth in the maxillary anterior region are of great concern to both dentist and the patient because of the delayed eruption, occlusal and esthetic problems they can create. A large percentage of anterior supernumerary teeth remain unerupted, while 25 % are partially or fully erupted. Munns stated that the earlier the offending supernumerary tooth is removed, the better the prognosis (Munns, 1981). Majority of unerupted teeth (approximately 75 %) erupt spontaneously, once the supernumerary tooth is removed (Mckibben and Brearly, 1971).

Supernumerary teeth in the primary dentition are often overlooked because they are of normal shape (supplemental type), erupt normally and appear to be in proper alignment (Humerfelt *et al*., 1985). In the permanent dentition they have a greater variety of forms. Koch *et al* reported a 56 % incidence of conical shaped supernumerary teeth, 12 % tubercular, 11 % supplemental and 12% other configurations (Koch *et al*., 1986). The molari form type have been rarely reported (Hattab *et al*., 1994). They appear either alone or in pairs in the central incisors area with complete root formation and may cause delayed eruption of adjacent teeth.

The occurrence of supernumerary teeth in the primary dentition is uncommon, one fifth of that seen in the permanent dentition. An interesting finding is that in approximately 30 % of the cases, supernumerary teeth in the primary dentition are superseded by extra teeth in the same location in the permanent dentition (Taylor, 1972). The reported case is unusual due to presence of a palatally erupted conical supernumerary tooth in primary dentition and a molariform type in permanent dentition. Concomitant presence of a supernumerary tooth in primary dentition and another in permanent dentition in different locations is rare. An early diagnosis of supernumeraries allows timely intervention, minimal complications and a more favourable prognosis.

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