

# Incidental Supernumerary Teeth

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A supernumerary tooth is one that is additional to the normal series and can be found in almost any region of the dental arch. The occurrence may be single or multiple, unilateral or bilateral, erupted or impacted, and in one or both jaws. Multiple supernumerary teeth is a rare developmental alteration and usually reported with several syndromes such as Gardner's syndrome, Cleidocranial dysplasia, Ehler Danlos syndrome, Down's syndrome, etc.<sup>1</sup>

A well built 17 year old boy with complaint of food impaction, presented with a full complement of teeth up to the second molar in all quadrants. Small tooth like structures were present bilaterally on the buccal aspect between the first and second molars.

Orthopantomograph revealed the presence of 7 supernumerary teeth of which 3 were in the maxilla and four in mandible. In the maxilla two supernumerary teeth were present bilaterally between the 1st and 2nd molars and there was a supernumerary tooth bud distal to the left 3rd molar. In the mandible, there were four developing supernumerary teeth below the premolars bilaterally. The normal mandibular molars were horizontally impacted. Left maxillary central incisor showed radiopacity in the canal indicative of endodontic treatment. (Fig 1)

The boy's father reported that he too had an extra tooth in the lower jaw and had got it extracted few years ago. He was referred to a physician who ruled out syndromes.

Supernumerary teeth (ST) are more frequent in males.<sup>2</sup> They are classified based on form, morphology, location, and occurrence. Several hypotheses have been proposed to explain the occurrence of ST an abnormal reaction to a local traumatic episode, environmental factors, the phylogenetic theory, dichotomy of tooth germ, the theory of hyperactivity of dental lamina and autonomic recessive inheritance or X-linked



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chromosome.<sup>3</sup> This case could be having a genetic predisposition as the father also reported having a supernumerary tooth.

There is a predilection of non-syndromic multiple supernumerary teeth to occur in the mandible.<sup>4</sup> Our patient had teeth in both the arches.

The erupted maxillary teeth were extracted and had complete root formation. Extraction is not always the treatment of choice for supernumerary teeth. They may be monitored without removal where there is no associated pathology or if removal would prejudice the vitality of the related teeth.<sup>5</sup>

The present case is labelled as non-syndromic multiple supplemental supernumerary teeth. The patient was completely asymptomatic and the presence of seven supernumerary teeth was an incidental finding.

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