Supernumerary teeth in primary dentition

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DESCRIPTION

Supernumerary teeth are defined as excess number of teeth as compared with the normal dental formula. Supernumerary teeth occur more frequently in the permanent dentition but rarely in primary dentition. Hyperdontia in the primary dentition is often overlooked because supernumerary teeth are often of normal shape, erupt normally in proper alignment and can be mistaken for germination, fusion anomalies. Clinically, supernumerary teeth are usually coincidentally diagnosed, either during intraoral examination (figure 1) or on a radiograph (figure 2). In certain cases, supernumerary teeth can cause malocclusion, crowding, disturbed eruption or retention of teeth, delayed or abnormal root formation in permanent teeth and cysts. The prevalence of supernumerary teeth is 0.15–1% in permanent dentition and 0.3–0.6% in the primary dentition which is five times lower than permanent dentition, with predilection of 2:1 for men.¹ In 2012 prevalence of dental anomalies in the primary dentition of 1149 Turkish children aged 2–5 years were found in 2% of children with 0.3% supernumerary teeth.²

The exact aetiology of the supernumerary teeth is still not yet completely understood. Several theories have been suggested for their occurrence, such as the phylogenetic theory, the dichotomy theory, occurrence due to hyperactive dental lamina and due to a combination of genetic and environmental factors.³

A careful examination by clinical and radiographic methods can reveal a rare manifestation of

Figure 1 Intraoral photograph of the supernumerary tooth.

Figure 2 Radiographic image showing supernumerary tooth.

the presence of hyperdontia, and they can cause and increase the incidence of malocclusion. No single tailored treatment is available. Careful planning by the clinician is essential.

Learning points

- ▶ Supernumerary teeth in primary dentition are rare.
- ▶ Clinically, supernumerary teeth are usually coincidentally diagnosed.
- ▶ Careful clinical examination is required by the operator.

Competing interests None.

Patient consent Obtained.

Provenance and peer review Not commissioned; externally peer reviewed.

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To cite: Chaudhary S, Chaitra TR, Sultan S, *et al.* *BMJ Case Rep* Published online: [please include Day Month Year] doi:10.1136/bcr-2013-200029

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