

Letter to the Editor

Supernumerary teeth and gemination

Sir,

We describe a rare case of a patient with geminated supernumerary teeth.

A 21-year-old man presented to our department complaining of a hard lump in his oral mucosa. On clinical examination there was a tooth cusp in the palatal mucosal area between the right first and second premolars. At first we assumed that it might be the cusp of a supernumerary tooth. However, to our surprise, panoramic radiographic examination showed that there were two supernumerary teeth crowns and only one root. Cone beam computed tomography (CBCT) clearly showed a single pulp canal that joined two crowns of the teeth, giving the appearance of gemination (Fig. 1). The two extracted supernumerary teeth had one root.

Supernumerary teeth are the most common cause of dental anomalies, and their prevalence in the permanent dentition has been reported to be between 0.1% and 3.8%.¹ Typical cases involve the anterior maxilla. However, gemination and fusion are uncommon developmental anomalies that can occur in the permanent dentition with a prevalence of 0.5%.² Geminated teeth consist of 1 tooth bud that has split into 2 units that are connected and share the same pulp chamber.³ Aberrant development and hyperactivity of the

dental lamina can result in slight malformations such as geminated or fused teeth, in the development of supernumerary teeth. What is unusual about the case is that the supernumerary teeth and geminated teeth were both in the same position.

Conflict of interest statement

There is no conflict of interest.

References

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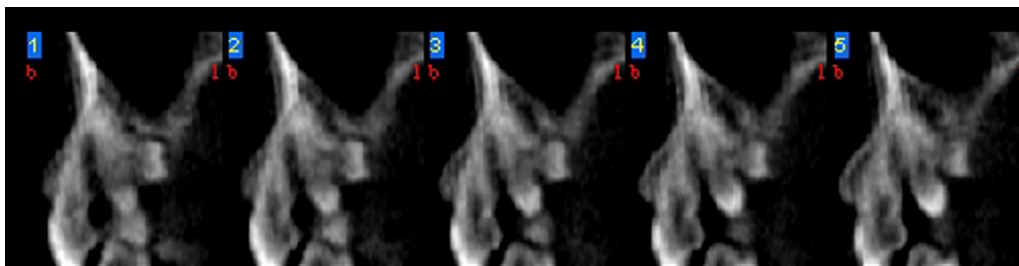


Fig. 1. Cone-beam computed tomographic images.