

Short communication

Supernumerary teeth in the bilateral buccal space: a rare case

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Abstract

Supernumerary teeth are usually found in the alveolus, but may occasionally be sited in unusual places. We report a rare case of a patient who presented with two supernumerary teeth in the bilateral buccal space.

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Introduction

The prevalence of supernumerary teeth ranges from 0.04% to 2.29%.¹ They can grow in any region of the dentition, including unusual positions far from the maxilla and mandible such as the orbit, maxillary sinus, nasal cavity, mandibular condyle, and oropharynx.^{2,3} We describe a rare case of two supernumerary teeth that were sited in the bilateral buccal space.

Case report

A 35-year-old Chinese woman was referred to the department of oral and maxillofacial surgery by her otolaryngologist with a complaint of a hard lump in each of her cheeks. Computed tomography showed two teeth in the bilateral buccal spaces, deep to the buccinator muscle (Fig. 1). On intraoral examination, the right buccal space had a hard, mobile lump near



Fig. 1. Coronal view of computed tomogram.

the opening of the parotid duct, and the left side had a similar but smaller lump near the retromolar region.

Both teeth were removed whole, (Figs. 2 and 3). The right tooth was of normal size and morphology, but the left one was a microdont.

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Fig. 2. Supernumerary tooth from the right buccal space.



Fig. 3. Supernumerary tooth from the left buccal space.

Discussion

The displacement of teeth into the buccal space is rare and only four cases have been reported, and these were unilateral.^{4–7} Possible reasons include injury, genetic influence, pathological conditions, and crowding (that can lead to extralingival displacement).² Other reasons to consider include fragmentation of the dental lamina during odontogenesis, or the presence of pluripotent neural crest cells with odontogenic potential in the buccal space.

Our patient had had all four third molars removed 10 years previously, so we ruled out the possibility of displaced wisdom teeth, and she did not recall any previous injury to the face. Clinical examination showed her to be a healthy adult with normal features that did not suggest any syndromic or genetic influences, and intraoral examination showed that there was no severe crowding.

Surgical removal remains the treatment of choice in cases such as this, and most supernumerary teeth in the alveolus can be removed with minimal morbidity and complications. In our patient, the right supernumerary tooth was located near the opening of the right parotid duct and particular care was taken to avoid injury.

Conflict of interest

I have no conflicts of interest.

Ethics statement/confirmation of patient's permission

Ethics approval not required. The patient's permission was obtained.

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