

# Supplemental Primary Incisor: A Case Report

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## ABSTRACT

**Aim:** The aim of this communication is to be vigilant for the presence of supernumerary or supplemental teeth, so that future problems in eruption or occlusion can be handled.

**Summary:** Supernumerary teeth are the teeth formed in excess of that found in the normal series. This article presents a case of an 8 year old boy with supplemental primary maxillary lateral incisor alongwith its permanent successor. Also, the supernumerary teeth were observed in posterior maxilla on orthopantomogram.

**Keywords:** Primary maxillary lateral incisor, supplemental, supernumerary teeth

## INTRODUCTION

Supernumerary teeth or hyperdontia is defined as excess number of teeth as compared to the normal dental formula. The occurrence of supernumerary teeth in both the primary and permanent dentition has been reported at around 30%.<sup>1</sup> Supplemental lateral incisors in primary dentition occasionally erupt normally. The occurrence of supernumerary teeth in primary dentition is a less common finding, one fifth of that seen in permanent dentition.<sup>2</sup> Supernumerary teeth are classified according to morphology and location.<sup>3</sup>

Small peg-shaped conical tooth is the supernumerary most commonly found in the permanent dentition. The tuberculate type of supernumerary possesses more than one cusp or



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tubercle. It is frequently described as barrel-shaped and may be invaginated. Root formation is delayed compared to that of the permanent incisors. The supplemental supernumerary refers to a duplication of teeth in the normal series and is found at the end of a tooth series. The most common supplemental tooth is the permanent maxillary lateral incisor, but supplemental premolars and molars also occur. The majority of supernumeraries found in the primary dentition are of the supplemental type and seldom remain impacted. Odontoma refers to a hamartomatous malformation. Two separate types have been described; the diffuse mass of dental issue which is totally disorganised is known as a complex composite odontome whereas the malformation bearing similarity to a normal tooth is referred to as a compound composite odontome.<sup>4</sup>

## CASE REPORT

An 8 year-old boy reported to our outpatient department with complaint of mobile tooth in maxillary anterior region. On examination, right primary maxillary lateral incisor was mobile. Surprisingly, there was supplemental primary maxillary lateral incisor on right side. Familial and medical history was non-



**Figure 1: Supplemental right primary maxillary lateral incisor** contributory. General examination and extra-oral examination showed no abnormality, dental examination revealed mixed dentition with presence of two primary lateral incisors in right maxillary quadrant (Fig 1). This means that there was presence of supplemental primary lateral incisor. There was only one primary lateral incisor in the left maxillary quadrant (Fig 2).

Orthopantomograph (OPG) revealed the presence of supplemental right maxillary primary lateral incisor alongwith its successor (Fig 3). Also there was presence of extra tooth-



**Figure 2: No supplemental tooth in left maxillary quadrant**

buds (Supernumerary) beneath right permanent maxillary first molar teeth. Supernumerary teeth in the presented case did not seem to cause problems in eruption or alignment of teeth. The mobile primary maxillary right incisor was removed under local anaesthesia. For the supplemental tooth we can wait for spontaneous resorption to occur. The successor is expected to erupt spontaneously. On eruption if required we can plan aesthetic contouring of the concerned tooth. The patient was asked for regular follow-ups as there was no problem otherwise.



**Figure 3: OPG showing Supplemental right primary maxillary lateral incisor alongwith its permanent successor**

## DISCUSSION

Supernumerary teeth are the teeth formed in excess of that found in the normal series.<sup>5</sup> These teeth may be single or multiple and while they are occasionally seen in lower premolar or molar regions, they are most commonly found in the anterior maxilla.<sup>6</sup> Additional teeth are usually of simple conical shape (supernumerary teeth) but less frequently resemble teeth of normal series (supplemental teeth). These are the results of excessive but organised growth of the dental lamina of unknown cause.<sup>7</sup>

Hyperdontia occurs more commonly in the permanent dentition,<sup>6</sup> and more frequently in incisors than it does in canine or post-canine teeth. Primosch in 1981, reported that the majority of primary extra teeth are supplemental, mostly lateral incisors.<sup>8</sup> The majority of supernumeraries found in primary dentition are of the supplemental type and seldom remain impacted.<sup>9</sup> In case, if primary dentition presents

supernumerary tooth a succedaneous permanent supernumerary tooth is expected.<sup>9</sup> In the present case a supplemental primary maxillary lateral incisor was observed alongwith its permanent successor. Similarly, a supplemental primary maxillary lateral incisor was also reported by Lehl and Kaur.<sup>10</sup> Beere *et al.*<sup>8</sup> reported supplemental primary maxillary lateral incisor in twins alongwith a supplemental permanent incisor.

In general, most of the supernumerary teeth are located in anterior maxillary region with their presence giving rise to a variety of clinical problems viz, impidence of eruption and or malalignment of teeth.<sup>6</sup> In the present case, the supernumerary teeth are present in the posterior maxilla. Sivapathasundharam and Einstein<sup>11</sup> reported intraosseous presence of non-syndromic supernumerary teeth.<sup>11</sup>

## CONCLUSION

We as clinicians should be aware about the presence of extra teeth of any type. These can interfere with normal eruption, can be cause for various malocclusions i.e. rotations, diastema, proclination of permanent teeth. Sometimes, they may remain symptomatic. If asymptomatic can be left as such and chekced periodically, but in case they are causing some pathological effects the extraction is the immediate treatment.

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