

steroids for any chronic illness it is a must to exclude tuberculosis.

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Supernumerary Teeth Presenting as Nasal Teeth

Supernumerary teeth are extra teeth. When they are present in the nasal cavity, they are called nasal tooth. Supernumerary teeth are reported from mandible, orbit, palate, maxillary antrum and nasal cavity. Eruption of teeth into these sites are rare and easily overlooked(1). Although, they are asymptomatic, they may prevent and delay the eruption of normal teeth and lead to the malalignment in the later life. It is important to identify and remove supernumerary teeth before they manifest in different ways depending on the site. The clinical features include epistaxis, rhinitis, septal abscess, septal perforation, pain in the philtrum area and discomfort during deglutition and speech(2). We report a case of eight-year-old boy came to this hospital for pain in the throat. Routine anterior rhinoscopy showed a foreign body mass with conical projection at the floor of left

nasal cavity. It was immobile and did not bleed on touch. There was no gritty feeling on touch as well, there was no history of any foreign body and no missing teeth in the oral cavity. The mass was removed which turned out to be nasal tooth (*Fig. 1*). It had attachment at the floor of nasal cavity. There was little epistaxis which was controlled by light anterior nasal packing.

Supernumerary teeth may imitate the shape of normal teeth. They arise from extra bud of dental lamina. The incidence of Supernumerary teeth in Indian children is reported to be 2.5%(2). The most common supernumerary teeth is mesiodens, a tooth situated between maxillary central incisor, occupying single or paired, erupted or impacted and occasionally inverted(3). The maxillary 4th molar is the second most common supernumerary teeth and situated distal to third molar. Other supernumerary teeth seen with same frequency are maxillary paramolars, mandibular premolars and maxillary lateral incisor. Approximately 90% supernumerary teeth occur in maxilla and more common in permanent dentition.



Fig. 1. Extracted nasal tooth presenting with pain in throat.

Extensive survey was done about prevalence of supernumerary teeth among Lucknow city school children. The incidence was less in poor socio-economic status. In the similar study most common supernumerary teeth observed was mesiodans and about half of them were abnormal in shape and observed in ratio of 9:1 in upper to lower. Various theories have been given about presence of additional teeth. The first theory is excessive growth of dental lamina. Second theory is tooth germ undergone

dichotomy and third possibility is that they are derived from clumps of epithelium that remains after the breaking up of the tooth band and become activated to tooth formation(4). The radiographic evidence of suppenumerary teeth is only 2.4%. The prevalence is higher in male children and vegetarians. Heredity may play a role for increased incidence in some family.

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