

Tooth agenesis in patients referred to an Irish tertiary care clinic for the developmental dental disorders

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Précis

Hypodontia is the most common developmental disorder affecting teeth, and the mandibular second premolar is the most frequently absent tooth type.

Abstract

Purpose: This study was carried out to determine the prevalence, severity and pattern of hypodontia in Irish patients referred to a tertiary care clinic for developmental dental disorders.

Materials and methods: Details of 168 patients with hypodontia referred during the period 2002-2006 were entered in a database designed as a national record. Tooth charting was completed using clinical and radiographic examinations. The age of patients ranged from 7-50 years, with a median age of 20 years (Mean: 21.79; SD: 8.005).

Results: Hypodontia referrals constituted 65.5% of the total referrals. Females were more commonly affected than males with a ratio of 1.3:1. The number of referrals reflected the population density in this area; the majority were referrals from the public dental service. Mandibular second premolars were the most commonly missing teeth, followed by maxillary second premolars and maxillary lateral incisors; maxillary central incisors were the least affected. Symmetry of tooth agenesis between the right and left sides was an evident feature. Slightly more teeth were missing on the left side ($n = 725$) than on the right side ($n = 706$) and in the maxillary arch ($n = 768$) as compared to the mandibular arch ($n = 663$). Some 54% of patients had severe hypodontia with more than six teeth missing; 32% had moderate hypodontia, with four to six teeth missing. The most common pattern of tooth agenesis was four missing teeth.

Conclusion: Hypodontia was a common presentation in a population referred to this tertiary care clinic. The pattern and distribution of tooth agenesis in Irish patients appears to follow the patterns reported in the literature.

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Dentists' approach to patients on anti-platelet agents and warfarin: a survey of practice

Précis: A lack of adherence to current guidelines is seen in the operative management of patients on anti-platelet agents and/or warfarin.

Abstract: In everyday practice, dentists are confronted with the dilemma of patients on anti-platelet agents and warfarin who require invasive dental procedures and, more pertinently, dental extractions. There may be a divergence of opinion among dentists regarding how they manage these patients.

Aims: To assess general dental practitioners' approach to the management of patients taking anti-platelet agents and/or warfarin who are undergoing invasive dental procedures.

Methods and data: A semi-structured questionnaire was designed to survey general dental practitioners in a large Irish urban area.

Results: A response rate of 89% was achieved in a study population of 54 general dental practitioners. A total of 25% of respondents who carry out extractions on warfarinised patients do not check the INR prior to invasive dental procedures. Some 90% of respondents stop anti-platelet agents prior to extractions.

Conclusions: A significant proportion of respondents fail to check warfarinised patients' INR prior to invasive dental procedures. Furthermore, a trend of stopping anti-platelet agents was noted, which is in contrast with current recommendations in the dental literature. Certain practices in this small study population proved alarming and highlight the need for improved awareness of current guidelines. A further large-scale study may be justified, as variation in practice may have clinical and medico-legal repercussions.

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Review of methods used in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the maxillofacial region

Précis

Modern methods in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the maxillofacial region.

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Abstract

Maxillofacial and dental defects often have detrimental effects on patient health and appearance. A holistic approach of restoring lost dentition along with bone and soft tissue is now the standard treatment of these defects. Recent improvements in reconstructive techniques, especially osseointegration, microvascular free tissue transfer, and improvements in bone engineering, have yielded excellent functional and aesthetic outcomes. This article reviews the literature on these modern reconstructive and rehabilitation techniques.