Images in...

Mandibular talon's cusp

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DESCRIPTION

A healthy 18-year-old male patient came for a routine dental examination. His medical history was uneventful. Mandibular left central incisors exhibited small prominent cusp on its lingual surface (figure 1). The cusp was teat-like, projected from the cement–enamel junction and extended halfway to the incisal edge. The cusp measured 4.5 mm in length (incisocervically), 3.5 mm in width (mesiodistally) and approximately 3 mm in thickness (labiolingually). A small bridge of enamel connected the

Figure 1 Intraoral photograph showing the talon's cusp.

Figure 2 Lingual view of type 1 talon's cusp.

talon to the lingual surface (figure 2). The affected tooth was responsive to electrical pulp testing.

Intraoral periapical radiograph revealed that appearance of a talon's cusp was similar to that of normal tooth material, presented with radiopaque enamel, dentine and pulp horn in the lingual cuspid of dens evaginatus (talon's cusp) (figure 3).

A diagnosis of talon's cusp of mandibular central incisors was made. No treatment was required because the patient did not experience pain or discomfort during biting.

Talon's cusp is a developmental anomaly characterised as a supernumerary, cusp-like structure projecting from the cemento–enamel junction to a variable distance towards the incisal edge of an anterior tooth from the palatal or buccal surface of tooth.¹ Dens evaginatus is preferred when describing posterior teeth with accessory cusp-like projections.^{2 3}

Its aetiology is multifactorial and includes genetic, environmental factors and hyperactivity of the enamel

Figure 3 Periapical radiograph showing the inverted V-shaped talon's cusp.

organ during morphodifferentiation.² Typically, talon's cusp looks like a 'V'-shaped structure superimposed over the normal image of the crown and is more commonly found in palatal surface of maxillary central incisors and is rare in the mandible.³ To the best of our knowledge, only 14 cases of mandibular talon's cusps have been reported, of which only 3 cases are in left central incisors.

This article reports an unusual case of talon's cusp of mandibular permanent central incisors and is the fourth instance of such type.

Learning points

- ▶ Early diagnosis and management of talon's cusp is important for the sake of preventing occlusal interference, compromised aesthetics, carious developmental grooves, periodontal problems due to excessive occlusal forces and irritation of the tongue during speech and mastication.
- ▶ If there are deep developmental grooves beside the talon's cusp, they have to be filled with sealants.
- ▶ Talon's cusp, if it is out of occlusion it may remain dormant without causing any discomfort.

Competing interest None.

Patient consent Obtained.

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