

Metal ring on a permanent molar: a rare occurrence

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DESCRIPTION

Foreign bodies are commonly found in the oral cavity¹ of children and are discovered by dentist during the routine examination.² An 11-year-old boy with parent reported with a rare chief complaint of a metal ring getting stuck on to the tooth from past 5 days. On interviewing the child and parent it was revealed that the child was playing with the metal ring and during the play unknowingly the child had put the ring into the mouth and the ring got stuck. The parent tried to remove the ring but without success. The parent was a motor garage owner and it was confirmed that the source of the metal ring was from the motor garage.

On examination, a metal ring was found to be on the mandibular left first permanent molar (figure 1).

The buccal gingiva of mandibular left first permanent molar was found injured which clearly shows that an attempt had been made to remove the metal ring (figure 2).

The treatment was explained to the patient and parent and the metal ring was removed using a band remover, which is routinely used in paediatric dentistry and orthodontics.

On removing the metal ring, gingiva surrounding the mandibular left first permanent molar was found to be inflamed due to the pressure by the



Figure 2 Injured buccal gingiva of left mandibular first molar.

metal ring and food accumulation between the tooth and the metal ring (figure 3). Removed metal ring was measured 1 mm in thickness and 12 mm in diameter (figure 4).



Figure 3 Inflamed gingiva due to the pressure by metal ring and food accumulation.



Figure 1 Metal ring on left mandibular first molar.



Figure 4 Removed metal ring.

To cite: Nalawade TN, Mallikarjuna R, Sharma G, et al. *BMJ Case Reports* Published online: 28 November 2012 doi:10.1136/bcr-2012-007750

Health professionals should be alert to the presence of foreign bodies, and educational campaigns should be conducted for emphasising the dangers of improper use of teeth.³

Learning points

- ▶ Dental surgeons should be alert to the presence of foreign bodies and their complications in the oral cavity of children.
- ▶ Children and parents should be educated about dangers of improper use of teeth.
- ▶ Parents should be educated so that very small objects are kept out of reach of children.

Competing interests None.

Patient consent Obtained.

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