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Prevalence of congenitally missing permanent teeth in Aseer region, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

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Introduction: The most common developmental and congenital dental anomaly is tooth agenesis. Congenitally Missing Teeth (CMT) refers to teeth whose germ did not develop sufficiently to allow the differentiation of the dental tissues 1. It is defined as missing of one or more teeth 2. It can be seen sporadic or in hereditary syndromes. This anomaly occurs in three categories: 1. hypodontia; 2. oligodontia and; 3. anodontia.

Materials & Methods: A total of 1050 panoramic radiographs of patients attending College of Dentistry, King Khalid University in KSA, Aseer region were reviewed. 1050 panoramic radiographs (64.76% males, 35.23% females) were selected. The patients were 12-40 years old. Inclusion criteria: having no specific syndromes, age more than 12 years old. Exclusion criteria: history of tooth extraction or tooth loss due to trauma, caries, specific syndromes, cleft lip & palate, ectodermal dysplasia, periodontal disease or orthodontic extraction, not enough radiographic quality to accurately diagnose the CMT. A tooth was considered congenitally missing when the absence of crown mineralization was confirmed in the panoramic radiographs. Data were collected and entered into the SPSS software then analyzed using Paired t-test, Mann-Whitney test, independent t-test, Chi-square test and Fisher exact test ($\alpha=0.05$).

Results: The patients were obtained from 12 to 40 years old patients OPG. Prevalence of CMT is 7.42%. A total of 78 teeth, (males=52, females=26) in 73 patients were congenitally missing, with an average of 0.71 ± 0.34 teeth per patient. The most common congenitally missing teeth were mandibular second premolars 28.21%, maxillary second premolars 25.64%, maxillary lateral incisors 23.8% and maxillary first premolars 12.82%, respectively. In this study, bilateral missing tooth in maxilla (60%) was more than mandible (40%). Prevalence of CMT in mandible (28.8%) was less than maxilla (71.2%). The least common missing teeth were first and second molars of both jaws (with no missing case) followed by mandibular canine.

Conclusion: The prevalence of CMT in Aseer, KSA is more in comparison with many population groups; therefore, the importance of diagnosis and management of these teeth is most important. By early detection of missing teeth, alternative treatment modalities can be planned and minimize the complications of CMT. The most frequent missing teeth were mandibular second premolar followed by maxillary second premolar and maxillary lateral incisor.

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