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| **Name:** |
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| **Group:** |
| 7B-1 |
| **Pathology Question:** |
| What are supernumerary teeth? |
| **Report:** |
| Supernumerary teeth are defined as any odontogenic structure formed from the tooth germ that is in excess of usual in any region of the dental arch. Supernumerary teeth may be single or multiple, unilateral or bilateral, and occur in males with a ratio of two to one. Supernumerary teeth also occur in 1 to four percent of the population. They are more common in the permanent dentition. The most common locations for supernumerary teeth is the central incisor location in the maxillary arch and in this location the extra tooth is referred to as a mesioden. The second most common location is distal to the third molars in one or both arches. These extra teeth are reffered to as fourth molars or distodens. When these teeth are present they can cause complications such as crowding, cyst formation, delayed eruption, discomfort, difficulty chewing, as well as impacted teeth. The cause of supernumerary teeth isn’t entirely clear. Supernumerary teeth have a strong link to genetic syndromes. These syndromes include cleidocranial dysplasia, Ehler-Danlos syndrome, cleft lip and palate, and Gardner syndrome. Other causes that are hypothesized deal with environmental factors such as hyperactivity of the dental lamina during tooth development.  In the treatment of supernumerary teeth, early detection is the most important factor. This will allow for the best treatment outcome becasue the longer the patient waits; the more advanced functional problems become. The most common treatment is an extraction of the teeth for cosmetics and functional problems.  Another noteworthy condition is the opposite condition which is hypodontia or missing teeth. This can also be referred to as tooth agenesis or congenitally missing teeth. It is defined as the developmental failure of six or fewer teeth. Hypodontia is the most common dentofacial malformation in humans. The most common missing teeth found are the upper lateral incisors, the wisdom teeth, and the second premolars. Hypodontia has more serious complications functionally. This is due to malocclusion, mesial drifiting or shifting, esthetics and jaw support. The function of the dentition is disrupted to a greater extent than seen with supernumerary teeth making treatment and restoration more difficult. |
| **References:** |
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