

Case Study

Diagnosis of Bilateral Type-A Radix Para-molaris on mandibular first molars: a case report

Abstract

Successful endodontic treatment of a molar tooth having an additional root whether it is radix para/ento molaris; begins with proper diagnosis. Hence careful examination and assessment of intra oral peri-apical radiographs should be done prior to attempting access opening. These iopa's provide sufficient details regarding presence of additional roots. Mesial or distal cone shift technique could be used to assess according to operator's choice to confirm presence of additional roots. In addition to the intra oral peri-apical radiographs, CBCT evaluation is recommended for the correct diagnosis, as that will help in rendering quality treatment to the patients. Access opening design will require modification in order to accommodate a straight line entry to the additional root (RP or RE). Cleaning and shaping can follow with standard procedures unless there is presence of additional canals in the same root such as mid mesial canal. In such cases, it may be wise not to enlarge the canal with a 6% taper; as it will compromise lot of intra canal dentin and weaken the root. However, once the tooth is successfully treated endodontically; one can proceed to do crown prosthesis of clinician's choice depending on various factors.

Keywords: [Radix Para-molaris; Cone beamed CT; Congenitally missing second premolars, Endodontics]

Case Report

A 40 year-old male patient reported with a chief complaint of severe pain on the left posterior region of his mouth. Upon check-up and routine documentation, he was diagnosed with irreversible pulpitis in left mandibular first molar. On radiographic (Intraoral Peri-apical; [IOPA]) examination (figure-1) the presence of an additional root was confirmed to be radix para-molaris.



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19 Figure 2: Orthopantomograph

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23 Figure 1: Intraoral Peri-apical radiographs

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25 He also presented with an over retained right mandibular deciduous second molar.

26 Upon radiographic examination the premolar was found congenitally missing and the

27 right mandibular first molar was having an additional root, confirmed to be radix

28 para-molaris. He also had a history of recent extraction of a decayed tooth on the left

29 side which he described as a very small dark posterior tooth with multiple roots. It

was suggestive of a left deciduous molar. This confirmed bilateral congenital absence of mandibular second premolars. An orthopantomograph was advised to confirm clinical findings and to rule out other issues like unusual impactions of the missing teeth (figure-2). The left mandibular first molar was carious and was indicated for an endodontic therapy.

Endodontic management

Successful endodontic treatment of a molar tooth having an additional root whether it is radix para/ento molaris; begins with proper diagnosis. Hence careful examination and assessment of intra oral peri-apical radiographs should be done prior to attempting access opening. These IOPA's provides sufficient details regarding presence of additional roots. Mesial or distal cone shift technique could be used to assess according to operator's choice to confirm presence of additional roots. Access opening design will require modification in order to accommodate a straight line entry to the additional root (RP or RE). Cleaning and shaping can follow with standard procedures unless there is presence of additional canals in the same root such as mid mesial canal. In such cases, it may be wise not to enlarge the canal with a 6% taper; as it will compromise lot of intra canal dentin and weaken the root. However, once the tooth is successfully treated endodontically; one can proceed to do crown prosthesis of clinician's choice depending on various factors.



Figure 3: Iopa's of Endodontic management

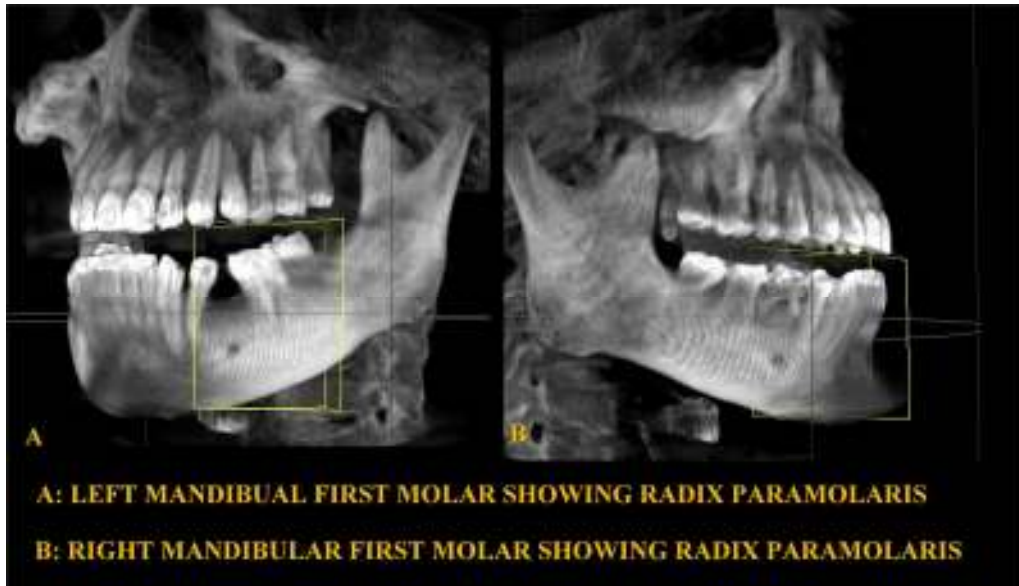
However; the case presented here is a left mandibular first molar diagnosed with irreversible pulpitis. It was indicated for an endodontic treatment followed by crown prosthesis. The area was anesthetized with an inferior alveolar nerve block prior to rubber dam application. An access preparation was made to obtain straight line access to all the canals including the radix para-molaris; with an extension into the mesio-buccal aspect of the tooth. Upon completion of access preparation, pulpal remnants were extripated and the orifices of all the 5 canals were located. The 5 canals were the mesio-buccal canal, mesio-lingual canal, disto-buccal canal, disto-lingual canal and the type-A radix para-molaris. Cleaning and shaping of these canals were done with hand Protaper instruments up to F2 with 6% taper after confirming the working length of all the canals (figure-3). The tooth was obturated with a cold lateral condensation technique in the following visit.

Discussion

Bilateral radix para-molaris is a very rare occurrence as per reports published so far. It is considered to be 0 – 5 % in different populations as per research articles published in unilateral cases.[1,2,3] Studies contradict each other on more percentage of its occurrence on right and left sides of the mandibular arch.[4,5] However, bilateral occurrence of radix para-molaris on mandibular has not been reported.

NB Nagaveni and KV Umashankara[6] suggested that a thorough examination of the preoperative radiograph and interpretation of particular marks or characteristics, such as an unclear view or outline of the distal/mesial root contour or the root canal, can suggest the presence of a "hidden" RE/RP (Radix Entomolaris/Radix Paramolais).[6] In their study they found only two unilateral cases of radix paramolaris type –A mesiobuccal root.[6] Carlsen O and Alexandersen V[7] classified the radix paramolaris as Type – A and Type – B. Type-A is an additional mesio-buccal root whose coronal part is attached to the mesial root complex and Type- B is an additional root which is seen in the central point of mesial and distal roots buccally.[7] In their study, they found five cases of type A and none of type B in the

84 total 203 permanent molars examined. Root and the canal morphology I permanent
85 mandibular molars may vary drastically as per current annals.[8]
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87 However, recent advances in the field of dental radiography like micro-computed
88 tomography (micro CT) and cone-beam computed tomography (CBCT) helps by a
89 great deal in diagnosing such exceptional occurrences thereby helping in quality
90 treatment for the patients.[9,10] Ingle et al. recommended a thorough radiographic
91 study of the involved tooth, using exposure from the standard buccal-to-lingual
92 projection, one taken 20° from the mesial, and the third taken 20° from the distal to
93 obtain basic information regarding the anatomy of the tooth.[6] Loh has claimed that
94 the RE/RP does not normally appear in peri-apical radiographs that are taken in the
95 traditional manner.[6] Adjusting the exposure time and dose of the x-ray and
96 angulating the main beam (to avoid superimposing the larger disto-buccal/mesial
97 root) can to help make RE/RP more evident although accurate interpretation of
98 radiographs depends on the trained eye.[6,10] A 1985 study by Walker and
99 Quackenbush claimed that panoramic radiographs resulted in an accuracy rate of
100 approximately 90%. Bilateral occurrence of radix para-molaris is very rare.
101 Thorough examination of the preoperative radiograph and interpretation of particular
102 marks or characteristics, such as an unclear view or outline of the distal/mesial root
103 contour or the root canal, can suggest the presence of a "hidden" RE/RP.[6, 11]
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105 A Cone beamed CT was advised to re-confirm the earlier findings with the
106 IOPA's.[12] CBCT has now emerged as a diagnostic equipment best suited for many
107 specialities in dentistry.[12,13] It gives a perfect three dimensional image of any
108 required area around dentition. It is known to be an endodontist's boon; as it helps in
109 perfect diagnosis, analysis and to provide quality treatment for the needy.[12] It
110 confirmed the bilateral congenital absence of mandibular second premolars and a
111 bilateral radix para-molaris with the mandibular first molars (figure-4).



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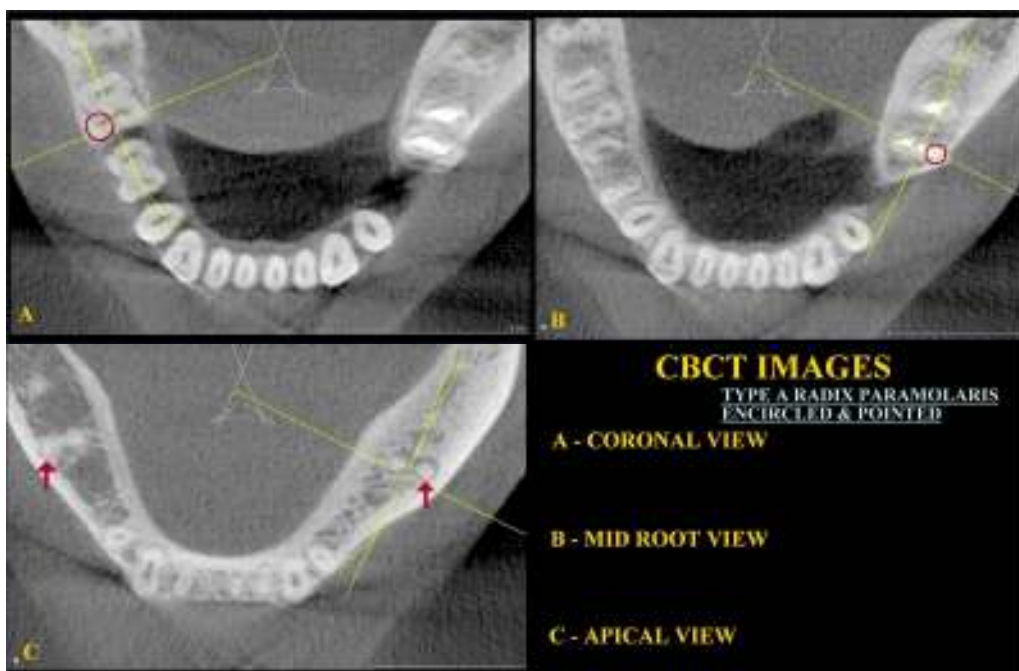
113 Figure 4: CBCT evaluation

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115 The arial view with dissections at coronal, mid and apical aspects clearly suggests
 116 the presence of a Type-A radix paramolaris (figure-5).

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120 Figure 5: CBCT; arial view in sections

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122 However; there are no reports on bilateral radix para-molaris on mandibular first
123 molars in global annals so far. Hence, this could be considered as unique.

124

125 **Conclusion**

126 One must understand and update the knowledge regarding the advancements in the
127 field of materials and equipment in dentistry. Though it requires some experience
128 and a trained eye to locate the differences in the field of radiology; one must be
129 willing to understand the importance of diagnosing perfectly in order to provide
130 quality treatment for the patience. CBCT helps in seeing the unseen as it gives a
131 three dimensional view. The role of modern technological up-gradation like the
132 CBCT helps in diagnosis, treatment planning and post operative assessment in
133 dentistry. Routine use of such recent technologies can only aid the clinicians in better
134 oral health care for the needy. Occurrences earlier thought as rare or nonexistent are
135 now known as possibilities in percentages. Hence, one must keep good vigilance
136 with the backup of thorough knowledge to diagnose and treat such rare occurrences.

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140 **CONSENT**

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142 All authors declare that 'written informed consent was obtained from the
143 patient for publication of this case report and accompanying images.

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146 **ETHICAL APPROVAL**

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148 **Ethical Statement**

149 All the authors comply with the fact that ethical clearance has been taken for this
150 submission including patient consent.

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