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# Patterns and prevalence of canine anomalies in orthodontic patients

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# Abstract

**Objective.** The aim of the present study was to present detailed information regarding the impacted maxillary and mandibular canines and their patterns of presentation into the oral cavity and to evaluate the prevalence of different canine anomalies, such as ectopic canine, transmigration, transposition and agenesis of permanent canines among central Indian population.

**Method.** A total of 1593 patients OPG's were thoroughly evaluated and the prevalence of different canine anomalies like impacted maxillary and mandibular canine, transmigration, transposition, agenesis and ectopic canine eruptions were evaluated. The canine angulation, vertical position in relation to occlusal surface of adjacent tooth's and the overlapping of adjacent teeth's crown by impacted canine was evaluated by tracings.

**Result.** Out of 1593 subjects, 22 patients had impacted canines. The prevalence of canine impaction was1.38%, with maxillary canine impaction of 0.93%, mandibular canine impaction of 0.37%, canine agenesis 0.06%, transmigration 0.12%, canine transposition 0.18% and the ectopic canine was 5.5%.

**Conclusion.** There is no gender difference in canine impaction. The prevalence of canine impaction is 1.38%.

Keywords: impacted canine, transmigration, transposition, ectopic canine, agenesis

# Introduction

The different types of canine anomalies like ectopic canine eruption, canine transmigration, canine transposition, agenesis, impaction, usually occur due to the disturbances during development and eruption. Since the canines are the longest teeth in the oral cavity and the shape, position of the canines contribute to the guidance of the teeth into the intercuspal position , the canine teeth should be evaluated thoroughly in order to deliver the best treatment to the patients.

The impaction of tooth have been studied by many authors and various terminologies have been given in the literature to define impaction including delayed eruption, primary retention, submerged teeth, impacted teeth etc [1]. According to Abron et al, impaction can be defined as a deceleration of the normal eruption process of the tooth [1] and according to Lindauer et al, it can be defined as a impaction if it was not erupted after completion of the root development or if the eruption of the contralateral tooth was there for at least 6 months with completion of root formation [2].

The ectopic eruption is a condition where because of deficiency of growth in the jaw or segment of jaw, a primary tooth assumes a path of eruption that intercepts its premature loss and produces a consequent malposition of the permanent tooth [3]. Tooth transposition, is also a special type of ectopic eruption. It can be defined as a condition where the position of two teeth is interchanged or a condition where a tooth develops in the place of another tooth [4,5]. It can be divided into two types, complete and incomplete transposition. Complete transposition is when the crown and root surface of the teeth is completely transposed in different positions. In incomplete transposition, only the crown is displaced in another tooth position but the root remains in their normal positions [6].

The transmigration is a condition where a tooth crosses a midline. Previously, transmigration term was used where the whole impacted canine had migrated and

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crossed the midline of the mandible [7]. But according to Javid. transmigration can be defined as a condition where one half or more of impacted canine crosses the midline [8,9]. According to various studies the prevalence of transmigration is suggested to be 0.1 to 0.34% in different populations [10-12].

Overall, the incidence of impacted maxillary canine is suggested to be 0.9-2.2% [13,14]. But the incidence for mandibular canine impaction is at least 20 times lower than that of maxillary canine impaction [15]. However, the transmigration of canine, agenesis of canine and canine tooth transposition are even rarer anomalies.

The aim of our study was to present the detailed information regarding canine anomalies like impacted canines and their patterns of presentation in the oral cavity: ectopic canine, transmigration, transposition and agenesis.

## Material and method

This is a prospective clinical study. The subjects for this study were selected from the patients attending the department of Orthodontics in the year of 2016. All the patients coming to the department of Orthodontics were thoroughly examined and checked for any missing permanent canine, retained primary canine and other canine anomalies. A total number of 1593 patients were evaluated for this study.

Patients were advised for OPG x-ray for confirmation of the clinical examination. Different canine anomalies were determined from the Orthopantomogram. The method given by Lindauer et al was used to consider canine as impacted [2].

The tracings were made on acetate paper. The

impacted canine, central incisor, lateral incisor on the impacted side were traced by lead pencil.

The impacted canines were evaluated for level, angulation and overlapping in relation to adjacent tooth. The angulation of the impacted canine was evaluated by tracing the long axis of the impacted canine in relation to mid-sagittal plane. The angulations were classified into mesioangular, vertical, distoangular and horizontal.

Since there were no exact criteria to classify according to the degree of angulations between the long axis of the impacted canine and the mid-sagittal plane, we performed a survey to decide the exact criteria; 10 senior resident orthodontists were asked to classify different angulations between mid-sagittal plane and long axis of impacted canine ranging from 5° to more than 75°. After the survey the following angulation classification was used.

Mesioangular: when the long axis of the impacted canine was directed towards the mid sagittal plane and the angle is formed near the coronal area of the impacted canine with a range of angle between 15-70 degree. Distoangular: when the long axis of the impacted canine runs away from the mid-sagittal plane and forming the angle above the apical region of impacted canine. Vertical: when the long axis of the impacted canine is almost parallel with the mid-sagittal plane and the angle was between 0-15 degree. Horizontal: when the long axis of the impacted canine meets the mid sagittal plane at an angle more than 70 degrees (Figure 1).

The vertical position of the impacted canine in relation to the adjacent tooth can be classed as follows [16] (Figure 2,3);



# Vertical

Figure 1. Showing the different angulations of impacted canine.

Horizontal

Distoangular



Figure 2. Showing the different depth of impacted canine (Levels).

Level C



Figure 3. Showing the different levels, Level A= between green line to yellow line, Level B= between yellow line to red line, Level C= below the red line.



**Figure 4.** Describing the overlapping (grade) of impacted canine in relation to adjacent teeth. Grade 1: between the tip of the canine crown to red line; Grade 2: between the red line to blue line; Grade 3: between the blue line to yellow line; Grade 4: mesial to the yellow.



Figure 5. Complete transposition (maxillary right canine).

Level A, The impacted canine crown is touching the cervical line of the adjacent teeth. Level B, The impacted canine crown is positioned between the adjacent teeth cervical line and the adjacent teeth root apex. Level C, The impacted canines crown is positioned below the root apex of the adjacent teeth.

To determine the overlap of the adjacent incisor root by the impacted canine the following classification was used in this study [17,18]. Grade 1, no overlapping of the adjacent teeth; Grade 2, overlapping of adjacent roots less than half width; Grade 3, overlapping of greater than half root width, but not the whole root; Grade 4, overlapping of complete root width or greater than that (Figure 4).

For this study, complete transposition was considered when the crown and root surface of teeth was completely transposed in the different positions (Figure 5).



Figure 6. Incomplete transposition.



Figure 7. Transmigration.

Incomplete transposition, where only the crown was displaced in another teeth's position but the root remains in their normal positions (Figure 6).

Javid's definition for transmigration was used for this study according to which a canine was considered transmigrated when the one half of impacted canine or more than that of the impacted canine crosses the midline [7]. To further classify the transmigrant canines, the classification given by the Mupparapu was used [19]. The classification is as follows: Type 1, canine positioned mesioangularly across the midline, labial or lingual to the anterior teeth. Type 2, canine horizontally impacted near the inferior border of the mandible inferior to the apices of the incisor teeth. Type 3, canine erupting on the contra lateral side.

Type 4, canine horizontally impacted near the inferior border of the mandible below the apices of posterior teeth. Type 5, canine positioned vertically in the midline with the long axis of the tooth crossing the midline (Figure 7).

### Results

Out of 1593 subjects, 22 (twenty-two) patients had at least one impacted maxillary or mandibular canine. Among

the twenty-two subjects the total number of impacted canine teeth found was 36 and one missing permanent canine. The distribution of different patterns of 36 canine anomalies were as follows: transmigration, 2 teeth and only in the mandibular arch; canine transposition, 3 teeth (1 complete, 2 incomplete), 31 impacted canine (25 in the maxillary arch and 6 in the mandibular arch). The present study, the prevalence of overall (both maxillary and mandibular) canine impaction found was 1.38%, only maxillary canine impaction was 0.93% and mandibular canine impaction 0.37%, canine agenesis 0.06%, canine transmigration 0.12% and only in the mandibular arch, canine transposition was 0.18% and only unilateral. The ectopic canine was found in 5.5% of patients. More than 95% of ectopic canines were present in the maxillary arch. Almost all the patients in this study were not aware of the condition but only two patients had complained of bulging of the soft tissues, as the tooth was erupting in the upper buccal mucosa.

In this study we have also observed the prevalence of total number of canine impaction per subjects. Out of 22 subjects, only 1 (unilateral) impacted canine was the most prevalent, which was observed in 14 (63%) subjects, the second most common was the 2 (bilateral) impacted canine per subjects, present in 4 (18%) patients. Equal distribution was observed, where 2 (0.9%) patients had all 3 impacted canines and 2 (0.9%) patients had all 4 impacted canines.

Table I depicts the patterns of impacted canines, which include the angulation, level of impaction and grade (overlapping of adjacent teeth). In the angulation category the mesioangular angulation was the most common finding, followed by vertical, then horizontal. In this study none of the impacted canine showed distoangular angulation. In the presentation of vertical heights (Level) of impacted canine, the level B was the most prevalent and level A and level C shows almost equal frequency. Grade 1 and grade 2 again showed almost equal incidence and most prevalent in the grade's category, followed by grade 4, while grade 3 was the least finding.

Table II shows the occurrence of impacted canine according to gender.

Table III presents t prevalence of impacted maxillary canine observed in different populations.

Table IV shows the prevalence of impacted mandibular canine observed in different populations.

Table V shows the prevalence of transmigration in different studies.

Table I. Patterns of impacted canine presentation.

ANGULATION	LEVEL	GRADE
Mesioangular = 25 (71%)	Level A=5 (14%)	Grade 1=11 (31%)
Distoangular=0	Level B=26 (74%)	Grade 2=12 (34%)
Vertical =8 (22%)	Level C=4 (11%)	Grade 3=3 (8%)
Horizontal=2 (5%)		Grade 4=9 (25%)

Table III. Prevalence of impacted canines according to gender.

Impacted canine	Female	Male	
Total 19 subjects	9 (47%)	10 (52%)	(p≥0.823)

**Table III.** The prevalence of impacted maxillary canine observed in different populations.

Study	Population	Year	Incidence
Arandi et al [20]	Palestinian Population	2017	1.8%
Sajnani AK, King NM [21]	Southern Chinese	2014	2.1%
Aydin et al [22]		2014	3.29%
Saglam AA, Tuzum MS [23]	Turkish population	2003	2.9%
Present study	Central Indian	2017	.93%

Study	Population	Year	Incidence
Aydin et al [22]		2014	0.44%
Yavuz MS et al [16]	Turkish subpopulation.	2007	1.29%
Chu et al [24]	Chinese population	2003	0.07%
Saglam, Tuzum MS [23]	Turkish population	2003	0.3%
Present study	Central Indian	2017	0.37%

Table V. Showing the prevalence of transmigration in different studies.

Study	Population	Incidence in Maxilla	Incidence in Mandible	Year
Sharma G, Nagpal A [25]	Indian population	0.16%	0.5%	2014
Aktan et al [10]	Turkish subpopulation	0.14%	0.34	2010
B Kamiloglu and U Kelahmet [9]	Cypriote population	0.44%		2014
Mupparapu [20]			0.004	2002
Kumar et al [27]		0.46%		2012
Present study	Central Indian population	0	0.12%	2017

#### Discussion

In the present study the prevalence of impacted canines among the central Indian population was estimated to be 1.38%. The prevalence of impacted maxillary canine was 0.94%, which is lower than the study by Chu et al. [24] where they have found the prevalence of 2.1% in Caucasian and Chinese populations.

The prevalence of impacted mandibular canine in this study was found to be 0.37%, which is higher than the study done by Rohrer A [15] where they have found the ratio of maxillary and mandibular impacted canine 20:1 ratio (2.06% and (0.1%), Grover and Lorton [27] reported 0.22%, Chu et al (24) reported 0.07% among 7486 patients. In other studies by Aydin et al. [22] among Turkish population, the incidence reported was higher than the present study 0.44% which was studied among 4500 patients.

According to Takahama and Aiyama [28] the unilateral impaction was the most common finding, and according to Harzer [29] the side mostly affected was the left one. Other studies had different views, the higher incidence side being the right side [30,31]. In our study the most common impaction found was the unilateral canine impaction, which was observed in 14 subjects and the most common side affected was the right side in both genders, similar to the studies by Takahama and Aiyama [28], while Bass [32] found that the bilateral impaction was the most common finding. But in our study only 8 (eight) subjects out of 22 (twenty two) were found with bilateral canine impaction.

When it comes to the distribution of the prevalence of impacted canine according to the gender then the majority of studies found the higher prevalence to be among the females [12,13]. But equal occurrence of impacted canine in both the genders was reported by some studies [34,35]. In the present study we have also found almost equal prevalence among male and female subjects.

The tooth transposition occurs most frequently on the left side then the right side, in the maxillary arch, unilateral then bilateral and in females. Various studies finding the most common transposition occurrence to be between the canine and first premolar [36,37] and less frequent with the lateral incisor [36]. In this study one complete transposition and two incomplete canine transposition occurred between the canine and the lateral incisor and primary canine was also retained. In the other two cases no retained deciduous canine and the lateral incisor was also in normal shape. The prevalence found was 0.18%, the side involved in all three cases was the right side. This study does not agree with other studies which are in favor of left side to be the most common affected side by canine transposition.

The present study found the prevalence of canine transmigration in the mandibular arch 0.12% and in the maxillary arch none. This study result shows less incidence compared to the study done by Sharma G, Nagpal A [26], where they did the study among 3000 panoramic

radiographs of north Indian population. The study by Aktan et al. [10] among Turkish subpopulation also shows a higher prevalence of 0.34% among 5000 subjects.

#### **Clinical implication**

The canine teeth are among the most important teeth in the oral cavity as they contribute to theaesthetic smile, canine guidance etc.

Knowledge of canine anomalies is necessary for the orthodontist to diagnose these anomalies at an early age in order to treat efficiently.

As the prevalence of canine impaction varies from one population to another population, it is of paramount importance that there should be data from all population groups.

#### Conclusion

There is no gender difference in canine impaction.

In the present study, the incidence of total impacted (mandibular and maxillary) canines was 1.38%. The maxillary canine impaction (0.93%) was more frequent than mandibular canine (0.37%)

The prevalence of canine agenesis was minimum 0.06% and the most common was ectopic canine 5.5%.

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