## **Original Article**

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# Dental anomalies and their treatment modalities/planning in orthodontic patients

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#### Abstract:

**OBJECTIVE:** This study was carried to study the prevalence of dental anomalies and treatment modalities/planning among the orthodontic patients.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS:** A total of 370 orthodontic records including their pre-treatment orthopantomographs (OPG) and study models of orthodontic patients in permanent dentition who attended dental clinic were assessed for impaction, hypodontia, supernumerary, supraocclusion, infraocclusion, and any other anomalies excluding the third molars. The association of anomalies with gender status and racial status was analyzed using Pearson's Chi-square test. A *P* value of <0.05 is considered as significant. The confidence interval at 95% (CI) was set.

**RESULTS:** Among the 370 subjects, 105 (28.4%) presented with at least one anomaly. Eighty-five (23%) demonstrated a single anomaly and 20 (5.4%) with more than one anomaly. The most prevalent anomaly was impaction (14.32%), followed by hypodontia (7.03%). The less common anomalies were microdontia (1.08%), dilacerations (0.27%), and generalised enamel hypoplasia (0.27%). Maxillary right lateral incisors and canines were the most common affected teeth and these are located on the maxillary right quadrant. It was evident that dental anomalies were statistically dependent on race (P = 0.025), but independent of gender. The most common treatment planned for these patients was fixed appliance.

**CONCLUSIONS:** Impaction was predominant among 28.4% subjects observed with anomaly and most patients with anomaly are treated with fixed appliances (49%).

**CLINICAL RELEVANCE:** These anomalies play a great role in occlusion and alignment in treatment planning and relapse for orthodontic treatment.

#### **Keywords:**

Dental anomalies, hypodonia, impaction, infraocclusion, orthodontic, supernumerary

### Introduction

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Dr. Norma Ab Rahman, Orthodontic Unit, School of Dental Sciences, Health Campus, Universiti Sains Malaysia, 16150 Kubang Kerian, Kelantan, Malaysia. E-mail: drnorma@usm.my Eruption is a series of unique, complex events with an eruptive movement of tooth germ from its developmental position in the alveolar crypt of the jaw into its functional position of the oral cavity.<sup>[1]</sup> Any form of interruption, such as genetic or environmental causes, towards this process will result in dental anomalies. Dental anomalies are very commonly observed in orthodontic patients.<sup>[2]</sup>

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Several studies have been conducted for the prevalence of various dental anomalies worldwide. Uslu *et al.* examined selected pre-treatment diagnostic records and reported that 40.3% of 636 orthodontic patients had at least one dental anomaly. They added that orthodontic patients have a significantly high incidence of this condition.<sup>[3]</sup> In a study conducted on an Indian population, 31.26% presented with dental anomalies.<sup>[4]</sup> Udom *et al.* recorded 74.8% of 111 orthodontic patients who had at least one dental anomaly.<sup>[5]</sup> In the North Greek population, at least 13.7% of

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1239 examined radiographs of patients in the Aristotle University School of Dentistry, having at least one impacted tooth.<sup>[6]</sup> A remarkably high rate of dental anomalies was recorded in orthodontic patients; therefore, orthodontists should carefully examine pre-treatment records for dental anomalies to include their management in the treatment planning.<sup>[3]</sup>

There is lack of study regarding tooth anomalies in orthodontic patients and none have reported on the treatment for patients with anomalies in this country. The aim of this research is to conduct a retrospective study of the prevalence of dental anomalies (impacted teeth, supernumerary, hypodontia, supraocclusion, infraocclusion, and any other anomalies observable, excluding third molars) among orthodontic patients in orthodontics dental clinics, and the treatments planned. As several classifications of dental anomalies are available, each of them affects the dentition in a distinct pattern. Some of these anomalies play a great role in occlusion and alignment of the tooth, which will affect orthodontic treatment planning, thus resulting in treatment relapse.

### **Materials and Methods**

A total of 370 randomly selected dental records including pre-treatment orthopantomographs (OPG) and study models of orthodontic patients that satisfy the inclusion criteria were retrospectively assessed for impaction, hypodontia, supernumerary, supraocclusion, infraocclusion, and any other anomalies assessable. Third molars were excluded from this study. The records were retrieved from the orthodontic archive of the selected hospital.

The following formula was utilized to obtain the sample size (n):

$$n = p (1 - p) \left[\frac{Z}{E}\right]^2$$

Where *n* is the sample size and *p* is the true proportion. *P* value was obtained to be 40.3% based on the occurrence of at least one type of dental anomaly in the orthodontic patients.<sup>[3]</sup> The precision value (E) was set at 0.05. *Z* value is 1.96, for 95% confidence interval (CI), which is conventional. Thus, 370 records that favour both inclusion and exclusion criteria were randomly selected.

This study includes the patients of permanent dentition only. Any subjects with a significant medical history, syndromic patient, history of congenital anomalies such as cleft lip or/palate, history of permanent tooth extraction, dental trauma, and previous prosthodontic treatment before orthodontic treatment were excluded. Subjects with spoiled or damaged radiographic images and the study models were purposely excluded as well to reduce misinterpretation. The subjects' folders were retrieved from the record unit to ensure accurate medical history and any dental treatment they underwent.

All the records were examined by a single investigator and intra-examiner reliability was tested with random re-examination by an experienced orthodontist. Ethical approval was obtained from the Human Research Ethics Committee of the institutions (USM/JEPeM/16030126).

### **Statistical analysis**

Data collection was pooled and analyzed by IBM Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS) for Windows software version 22.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, Illinosis, USA). Descriptive statistical analysis was performed to assess the frequency of anomalies, tooth type involved, location of anomalies occurrence and types of treatment planned for subjects with anomalies. The association of anomalies with gender status and racial status was analyzed using Pearson's Chi-square test. A *P* value of <0.05 is considered significant.

### Results

Out of 370 randomly selected subjects, 105 (28.4%) exhibited at least one dental anomaly. Table 1 outlines the prevalence and distribution of dental anomalies. However, this amount overlapped as multiple anomalies were evident in 20 (5.4%) cases [Table 2]. The prevalence of male subjects (30.8%) with dental anomalies was higher than that of females (27.84%), but there was no significant association between dental anomalies and gender

# Table 1: Prevalence and distribution of dental anomalies

Anomaly	Number of subjects	Percentage	
Impaction	53	14.32	
Hypodontia	26	7.03	
Peg-shaped	15	4.05	
Infraocclusion	14	3.78	
Supernumerary	10	2.70	
Supraocclusion	7	1.89	
Microdontia	4	1.08	
Dilaceration	1	0.27	
Enamel hypoplasia	1	0.27	
Total	131	35.40	

# Table 2: Frequencies of dental anomaliesdemonstrated in the total subjects

Variables	Number of subjects	Percentage
One anomaly	85	23.00
Two anomalies	15	4.05
More than two anomalies	5	1.35
Total subjects with dental anomalies	105	28.40

status using Pearson's Chi-square test. (P = 0.503). The distribution is shown in Table 3. Our findings showed a significant association between dental anomalies and race using Pearson's Chi-square test (P = 0.006). More Malay subjects have dental anomalies compared to Chinese [Table 4].

A total of 53 subjects (14.32%) have at least one impacted tooth. However, the total impacted teeth was 71, as 14 (26.41%) of the subjects presented with more than one impacted tooth. The frequency is shown in Figure 1. The most impacted teeth were the maxillary canines, followed by mandibular second premolars. The most impacted teeth were seen in the maxillary anterior region as well.

The prevalence of hypodontia was 7.03% (26 subjects). Twelve (46.15%) of the subjects with hypodontia presented with more than one congenitally missing tooth [Figure 2], thus the total missing teeth were 42. The most congenitally missing teeth were the mandibular laterals, followed by mandibular premolars. Hypodontia occurs most frequently in the mandibular anterior sextant. Compared to the maxillary arch, the teeth in the mandibular arch region were missing.

#### Table 3: Distribution of anomalies among gender

	Anomalies		Total
	No anomalies	With anomalies	
Gender			
Male	74	33	107
Female	191	72	263
Total	265	105	370

	Anomalies		Total
	No anomalies	No anomalies	
Race			
Malay	185	87	272
Chinese	80	18	98
Total	265	105	370



Figure 1: Frequencies of occurrence of impacted teeth

Supernumerary was seen in 10 subjects (2.7%), wherein mesiodens were evident in four subjects (1.08%). Supernumerary teeth are more frequent on the maxillary arch compared to the mandibular arch.

Seven (1.89%) individuals have supraoccluded tooth, mostly on the maxillary posterior right sextant. Infraocclusion occurs in 3.78% (14 subjects) of the population, and maxillary second molars are the most commonly affected ones. Three subjects have bilateral supraoccluded maxillary second molar.

Peg-shaped teeth were present in 15 subjects (4.05%), among which nine (2.43%) have bilateral peg-shaped teeth. Fourteen cases are maxillary peg laterals. One subject has bilateral peg-shaped canine. All peg-shaped teeth constitute the maxillary anterior region. Microdontia was evident in four patients (1.08%), among whom two presented with generalised microdontia. One subject has microdontic 12 and another both microdontic 12 and 22. One subject presented with dilacerations (0.27%) and another with generalised enamel hypoplasia (0.27%), which are the least common anomalies.

Overall, the most common teeth presented with anomaly are 12 and 23. The most common occurrence of anomaly is in the maxillary anterior region.

Our research objectives also include the types of treatment planned in the HUSM Orthodontic Unit to patients with dental anomalies. Out of 105 subjects, 51 (48.67%) were treated with a fixed appliance. The treatments planned for these patients are outlined in Table 5.

## Discussion

Across the globe, several investigations have been conducted on the prevalence of miscellaneous dental anomalies, but studies on orthodontic patients in this country are lacking. In studies conducted within the past 6 years, the prevalence ranged from 4.74 to 45.1%.<sup>[4,7-13]</sup> These variations are most likely due to the sampling



Figure 2: Frequencies of occurrence of hypodontia

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Table 5:	Prevalence	and distrib	oution of treatment
planned	for subjects	with dent	al anomalies

Treatment	Frequency	Percentage/105
Fixed appliance	51	48.57
No treatment	22	20.95
URA followed by fixed appliance	11	10.48
Surgical removal of tooth	3	2.86
URA	3	2.86
Extraction	3	2.86
URA and fixed prosthesis	2	1.90
Extraction and fixed appliance	2	1.90
Fixed appliance and fixed prosthesis	2	1.90
Combination	1	0.95
Composite crown build-up	1	0.95
Fixed prosthesis and implant	1	0.95
URA and composite crown build up	1	0.95
URA and implant	1	0.95
Orthodontic traction followed by fixed appliance	1	0.95
Total	105	100

technique, subject's inclusion criteria, and the study design. Unlike other researches which assessed the radiographs and dental records alone, this study was supplemented by the subjects' study cast.<sup>[11-13]</sup>

Our findings demonstrated 28.4% subjects with at least a single anomaly, at a very close range with the Norway and Iran population, at 28.2 and 29%, respectively.<sup>[10,11]</sup> However, both studies included those in mixed dentition. Uslu *et al.* reported a higher rate of 40.3% in a study among orthodontic patients with permanent dentition, which has been included in this study as well.<sup>[3]</sup> This number can be attributed to the differences in the diagnostic criteria, as they include wisdom teeth, commonly recognised to exhibit anatomic variations.

Out of 28.4% samples with anomalies, 5.4% exhibited more than one anomaly, within the range of 3.02 to 9.1% shown by previous researches.<sup>[4,8,12]</sup> Reports on incidence of multiple anomalies in non-syndromic and no known systemic conditions individuals were sparse.<sup>[14,15]</sup>

The associations between gender and occurrence of dental anomalies were statistically insignificant, in congruence with other studies.<sup>[4,5,12,13]</sup>

Statistically significant correlation was evident between race and dental anomalies, such that the prevalence was higher among the Malays (32%) as compared to Chinese (18.4%). Dental anomalies are caused by complex multifactorial interactions between genetic, epigenetic, and environmental factors during the long process of dental development.<sup>[16]</sup> It explains this phenomenon, as different races carried different genetic coding.

In our study, impaction was the most prevalent anomaly (14.32%), which coincides with other studies.<sup>[2,11]</sup> The percentage was higher than that reported in studies by Uslu et al. and Gupta et al. at 2.9 and 3.74%, respectively, both of which also included subjects of permanent dentition alone and excluded third molars in their investigations.<sup>[3,4]</sup> This variation can be attributed to the local environment and genetic factors. Out of 53 patients, 14 (26.4%) presented with more than one impacted teeth, not much deviated from the rate among the North Greek population, where 23.5% of the samples with impaction have more than one impacted teeth.<sup>[6]</sup> Maxillary canine has been most frequently reported when third molars were excluded.<sup>[2,3,5,6,17,18]</sup> Our finding supports this statement. Previous studies showed that impacted canine occurred in 1 to 3% in population.<sup>[19-22]</sup> Fardi et al. recorded a higher prevalence of 8.8%, quite consistent with our findings (7.30%).<sup>[6]</sup> The location of impacted teeth was more evident in the maxillary region than mandible, as in previous reports.<sup>[3,4,6]</sup>

Several studies concluded that hypodontia was the most prevalent dental anomaly,<sup>[7,9,23,24]</sup> and this phenomenon is a result of disturbances during the early stages of development.<sup>[25]</sup> A survey done by Rakhshan, analyzing the previous reports varying in size from about 200 subjects to about + 100,000, revealed that the prevalence of agenesis in the permanent dentition excluding the third molars ranged between 0.15 and 16.2%.<sup>[26]</sup> Although this phenomenon of tooth agenesis was not the most evident anomaly in our findings, it was observed in 26 subjects (7.03%), within the range stated above. Our hypodontia prevalence is not far deviated from the Iranian orthodontic population (9.1%), where the research is conducted among 1, 751 subjects.<sup>[55]</sup>

Twelve subjects presented with more than one missing tooth in our study. According to Citak, the most common anomaly associated with agenesis was the agenesis of another tooth.<sup>[27]</sup> The finding that maxillary laterals were most frequently missing in the arch was consistent in the previous studies that excluded third molars.<sup>[4,7,9,12,28,29,55]</sup> Interestingly, in contrast to previously reported, the incidence of missing mandibular laterals is most significant in our study. This study also deduced that agenesis is of higher occurrence in the mandibular arch, contradictory to the findings among the Iranian populations, wherein more missing teeth were found on the maxillary arch.[11,55] Although the predominant etiology of hypodontia is genetic, such variation could be attributed to the environmental factors such as fractures, surgical removal, and extraction of primary teeth.<sup>[30]</sup>

A few researches discovered that supernumerary is the less common anomaly.<sup>[3,31]</sup> Meanwhile, supernumerary is the rarest among orthodontic patients in an Australian

and Saudi population.<sup>[2,5]</sup> In our study, 10 (2.7%) subjects were observed with this anomaly. The rate is exactly similar to the Thailand population, at 2.7% as well.<sup>[32]</sup> Our rate is slightly higher than that previously reported.<sup>[7,12,13,31]</sup>

Mesiodens was the most common, in concert with articles written by Patil and Maheshwari and Schmuckli.<sup>[31,33]</sup> However, among the Jazan population, mesiodens was rare.<sup>[12]</sup> Our finding that hyperdontia was mostly observed in the maxillary arch, in accordance with the previous studies.<sup>[47,33]</sup>

Although the etiology is yet to be understood, it was postulated that this phenomenon is the result of dental lamina hyperactivity, wherein the supernumeraries arise from those epithelial cells that remain for longer periods.<sup>[34-36]</sup> Genetics has also been suspected to be the cause of this anomaly, such that the dominant autosomal gene was disrupted.<sup>[36,37]</sup>

The prevalence of peg-shaped tooth in this study (4.05%) was higher than that reported by the overall average in the general population, at 1.8%.<sup>[38]</sup>

Gupta *et al.* and Altug-Atac and Ederm concluded that maxillary laterals were the most affected and bilateral peg-shaped tooth are more commonly seen compared to unilateral, similar to our study.<sup>[4,23]</sup> Interestingly, a subject presented with bilateral peg-shaped maxillary canine in our investigation. A study carried out in an Iranian orthodontic population revealed that the prevalence of peg-shaped maxillary laterals was 1% lower than our finding (3.78%).<sup>[8]</sup> Citak discovered that agenesis is often associated with maxillary peg laterals.<sup>[27]</sup> Two of our cases of maxillary peg laterals coexist with hypodontia.

Infraocclusion is a common eruption disturbance, which constitutes a major clinical problem. The core of this condition is ankylosis of the tooth or its dentoalveolar tissue.<sup>[39]</sup> Fourteen subjects (3.78%) presented with this anomaly. The range of prevalence of infraocclusion is very wide, in general between 1.3 and 38.5%.<sup>[40]</sup> The mandibular deciduous second molar was the most frequently infraoccluded tooth, and 99% of the subjects presented with this condition.<sup>[41]</sup> Studies on the prevalence of this condition among permanent tooth are lacking.

Compagnon and Woda observed cases of supraeruption of the maxillary first molar in the absence of the mandibular first molar in subjects with pathological and non-pathological periodontium. They concluded that supraeruption of a tooth is the sequelae of loss of opposing contact where the crown erupted beyond the occlusal plane and active eruption took place.<sup>[42]</sup> Supraocclusion was seen in seven subjects (1.89%) in this study. Angle in 1907 expressed that a tooth could be maloccluded in any one of the seven positions or combinations of positions; two of them are supraocclusion and infraocclusion.<sup>[43]</sup> A combination of both supraocclusion of incisors and infraocclusion of molars will result in dentoalveolar deep bite.<sup>[44]</sup>

Four subjects have microdontia (1.08%). The rate is between 0.7 to 12.3% among the orthodontic patients.<sup>[2,3,5,23]</sup> In the Saudi population, microdontic maxillary laterals were most prevalent.<sup>[2]</sup> In our study, other than generalised microdontia, the rest exhibited microdontic maxillary laterals.

Dilacerations was the least common anomaly in our study, wherein it was seen in only one subject (0.27%). Ghabanchi J *et al.* stated that dilacerations was the less common anomaly (1.44%).<sup>[45]</sup> In a southeast Iranian population, dilacerations was the second most common dental anomaly (5.29%).<sup>[46]</sup> A higher prevalent (4.3%) compared to our finding was also recorded among orthodontic patients in the Aga Khan University Hospital.<sup>[47]</sup> The diagnosis of this anomaly is crucial prior to root canal treatment procedures, exodontia, and also orthodontic movement.<sup>[3]</sup> Root dilacerations on mesial or distal direction are observable on radiograph but not those towards buccal and lingual. Additional X-ray of different angles will aid the detection of dilacerations.<sup>[48]</sup>

Enamel hypoplasia is defined as a deficiency in enamel thickness resulting from a disruption in the matrix apposition stage of tooth enamel development.<sup>[49]</sup> Goodman and Rose stated that the percentage of individuals with hypoplasia was predominantly less than 10% in most populations of well-developed industrial countries.<sup>[50]</sup> In this study, only one subject presented with this defect. Hypocalcemia has also associated with the occurrence of enamel hypoplasia in the permanent dentition in hereditary vitamin D-resistant rickets, X-linked hypophosphatemia, and hypoparathyroidism.<sup>[51]</sup> Nevertheless, any patients with significant medical illness were excluded from this study.

Dental anomalies often result in malocclusion and interfere with function, speech, and aesthetics. Thus, appropriate treatments are deemed necessary to correct or improvise this condition. There is a lack of studies on treatments for patients with dental anomalies in their population. According to our results, the majority of patients (79.05%) with anomalies were planned for various treatments, mostly fixed appliances. The anomalies may cause other teeth in the arch to be extruded, intruded, rotated, overbite, and space in the arch, especially due to hypodontia. Such conditions can be corrected by a fixed appliance, as it enables not only vertical and tilting movement of a tooth but also rotational and apical movements. This treatment is indicated when precise tooth movements are required.<sup>[52]</sup>

10.47% of the subjects are indicated for upper removable appliances (URA) followed by a fixed appliance. Removable appliances work by simple tipping movements of the crowns of the teeth about a fulcrum close to the middle of the tooth. They also allow differential eruption of teeth, for example, using bite planes, to reduce overbite, relieve posterior occlusion in cases buccal crossbite or scissors bite and allow correction of anterior crossbite. Rotational movement of teeth that are broad mesio-distally is also possible with this appliance.<sup>[52,53]</sup>

Surgical tooth removal, normal extractions, and URA are planned for 2.85% of the sample each. Tooth removal is often indicated when it presents with complication or any associated pathology and aesthetics concern, particularly in case of mesiodens. The remaining 20.95% are not planned for treatment, as no treatment is also a treatment option.

Variations of prevalence of dental anomalies were observed in different populations.<sup>[41,45-48,54]</sup> Such discrepancies are tenable by different study materials, sample sizes, diagnostic criteria, sampling techniques, as well as environmental and racial factors. However, our results cannot be compared to other populations in Malaysia, as there is a lack of study regarding this phenomenon. Thus, more researches shall be conducted to study the prevalence of dental anomalies among various populations in this country, so any disparity between different regions can be further investigated. The etiology or the risk factors of anomalies has to be scrutinized further, such that it can be prevented at an earlier developmental stage.

### Conclusions

The prevalence of dental anomalies among the orthodontic population is 28.4%, where impaction was the most prevalent, followed by hypodontia. Dilacerations and hypoplasia are the least common anomaly. The maxillary canines and laterals are the most frequently to exhibit anomalies and thus most anomalies are observed on the anterior maxillary region. Statistical analysis indicated that dental anomalies are dependent on race, but independent of gender. The most common treatment planned for these patients is fixed appliance. We believe that the variations among prevalence of other population are caused by racial and environmental variations, as well as the diagnostic criteria.

### **Clinical relevance**

These anomalies play a great role in occlusion and alignment of the tooth, which will affect the orthodontic

treatment planning and it might result in treatment relapse if not being considered carefully.

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### **Conflicts of interest**

There are no conflicts of interest.

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