

Maxillary Lateral Incisor With Two Roots - Case Report

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A case report of a maxillary lateral incisor with two roots is presented.

Key Words: anatomy, maxillary lateral incisor, root canal therapy.

Most literature refers to the maxillary lateral incisor as a tooth with one root and one root canal in 100% of the cases (Pucci and Reig, 1944; Ingle and Beveridge, 1976; Weine, 1982; De Deus, 1982). However, this is not always true as several authors have published cases of maxillary lateral incisors with two roots (Swazey, 1888; Madeira, 1973; Christie et al., 1981; Moraes, 1983; Zillich et al., 1983; Thompson et al., 1985; Fabra-Campos, 1990). The present case of a maxillary lateral incisor with two roots must be included with these.

Case Report

A 40-year old, white male was seen in the Clinic of the Ribeirão Preto Dental School for root canal treatment and crown placement. On radiographic examination, two roots were detected in the maxillary right lateral incisor (Figure 1). The other lateral incisor was well formed. Root canal therapy was performed in one session (Figure 2).

To verify any hereditary linkage, the patient's daughter was also examined radiographically, and her maxillary lateral incisors were found to be normal.

Discussion

The maxillary lateral incisor is located at a site of high embryological risk. Several anomalies of development have been found in this tooth, i.e., *Dens invaginatus* (Pécora et al., 1987; Vansan et al., 1990), radicular grooves (Pécora et al., 1991), Talon cusp and peg-shaped. Root canal therapy in this tooth is not always easy.

This case report demonstrates, once again, the need for great attention when treating the root canal of maxillary lateral incisors since the general idea is that these teeth have only one root and one canal. It is important that this be included in endodontic textbooks since the truism and statistic of 100% single-rooted incisors is not necessarily true.

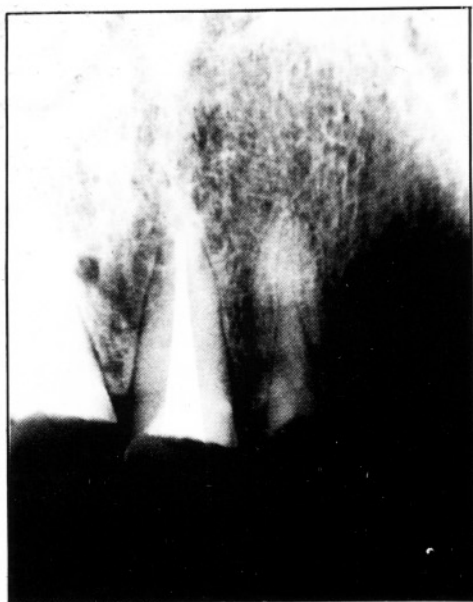


Figure 1 - Radiograph of the maxillary lateral incisor with two roots.



Figure 2 - Radiograph of the maxillary lateral incisor with two canals after root canal treatment.

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