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## RESEARCH ARTICLE

### ASSESSING THE FACTORS INFLUENCING ROOT RESORPTION IN IMPACTED MAXILLARY CANINE: A CLINIC-RADIOGRAPHIC STUDY

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#### ABSTRACT

**Aim:** to correlate the position of impacted maxillary canines on panoramic radiography with cone beam CT (CBCT).

**Materials & Methods:** In this study fifty patients with sixty impacted maxillary canine were retrospectively radiographed. The labiopalatal position of the impacted canines and root resorption of permanent incisors were evaluated with CBCT. The findings of panoramic radiography and CBCT were analysed and compared through statistics.

##### Results

Results revealed a statistically significant association between the panoramic sectors of the impacted canines and the labiopalatal position of the canines ( $p < 0.001$ ).

##### Conclusions

The labiopalatal position of impacted canines and resorption of permanent incisors might be predicted using sector location on panoramic radiography.

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## INTRODUCTION

An impacted maxillary canine is usually diagnosed during a routine dental examination. Disturbance in the eruption of permanent maxillary canines can cause problems in the dental arch and adjacent teeth, which require special care and attention. Therefore, clinicians should be capable of dealing with this clinical situation in order to deliver optimal treatment. Clinicians have various definitions of "impaction." Canine impaction can be defined as an unerupted tooth after its root development is complete; or a tooth still unerupted when the corresponding tooth on the other side of the arch has been erupted for at least 6 months and has a complete root formation; or a condition in which a tooth is embedded in the alveolus and is locked in by bone, adjacent teeth, or other obstacles and cannot properly erupt into the oral cavity. (Bishara, 1992; Ngan *et al.*, 2005; Schindel and Duffy, 2007; Bedoya and Park, 2009) Maxillary canines are among the last teeth to develop and have the longest period of development.

They also have the longest and most devious path of eruption from the formation point lateral of the pisiform fossa to the final position in the dental arch. (Bishara, 1992; Ngan *et al.*, 2005; Schindel and Duffy, 2007; Bedoya and Park, 2009) Therefore, there is an increased potential for mechanical disturbances resulting in displacement and impaction. The incidence of impacted maxillary canines varies from 1% to 3% (Dachi and Howell, 1961; Thilander and Myrberg, 1973). The incidence of palatally displaced canines in the Caucasian population is approximately 2% (Peck *et al.*, 1994) and 1.2% in African-Americans (Kramer and Williams, 1970). Canine impactions are most frequently buccally located in the Asian populations (Malmgren *et al.*, 1982).

The incidence of detecting impaction may increase through the utilization of three-dimensional imaging techniques, such as CBCT for dentomaxillofacial applications. Liu *et al.* (2008) found in 210 patients utilizing CBCT that impacted canines were located palatally in 41%, labially in 45%, and midalveolus in 14% of cases. Thus in this study, we tried to correlate the position of impacted maxillary canines on panoramic radiography with CBCT.

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## MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study was a retrospective radiographic review of 50 patients with 60 impacted maxillary canines. The study sample was selected from 64 patients who had CBCT ordered for localization of impacted maxillary canines after they had panoramic radiographs and clinical examinations at universal college of dental sciences, Bhairahawa, Nepal. This study was approved by the institutional review board. The patients were aged 10–48 years and the average age was  $20.4 \pm 8.6$  years. Because the root of the maxillary canine is completely formed by the age of 13–15 years, (Ash and Stanley, 2010) patients were classified into two age groups:  $\leq 15$  years and  $> 15$  years. Panoramic radiographs were made using Vatech radiography unit. CBCT scans were also acquired. Scanning parameters were 90 kVp, 24 s, 4 mA, voxel size 0.4 mm and field of view  $20 \times 19$  cm. The data was statistically analysed using the  $\chi^2$  test and the Fisher's exact test.

frequent and all cases of Sector 5 showed palatal impaction. Of the total 60 impacted maxillary canines, 34 (56.6%) were impacted labially, 16 (26.6%) in the mid-alveolus and 10 (16.6%) palatally. Labially impacted canines were more frequent in Sectors 1, 2 and 3, mid-alveolus impacted canines were most frequent in Sector 4 and palatally impacted canines were most frequent in Sector 5. There was a statistically significant association between the sectors of the canines and the labiopalatal position of the canines ( $p < 0.001$ , Table 1). In the  $\leq 15$  years group, Sectors 3, 4 and 5 showed root resorption of permanent incisors. In the  $> 15$  years group, Sectors 4 and 5 showed root resorption. The  $\leq 15$  years group showed more frequent root resorption of permanent incisors than the  $> 15$  years group but there was no statistically significant difference between the two groups. Resorption of permanent incisors was present in 18 patients (30%), was observed in Sectors 3, 4 and 5 and showed significant differences according to sector location ( $p < 0.001$ , Table 2).

**Table 1. Relationship between sector location on panoramic radiograph and labiopalatal position on cone beam compute tomography images**

Age(years)	Sector Location	Labial	Mid-alveolus	Palatal	Total
$\leq 15$	1	12	1	1	14(31.8%)
	2	8	1	0	9(20.4%)
	3	6	2	0	8(18.2%)
	4	3	2	0	5(11.2%)
	5	1	5	2	7(15.9%)
Subtotal		30(68.2%)	11(25%)	3(6.8%)	44
$> 15$	1	1	1	0	2(12.5%)
	2	1	2	1	4(25%)
	3	1	0	2	3(18.7%)
	4	1	2	1	4(25%)
	5	0	0	3	3(18.7%)
Subtotal		4(25%)	5(31.2%)	7(43.8%)	16
TOTAL	1	13	2	1	16
	2	9	3	1	13
	3	9	2	2	13
	4	4	4	1	9
	5	1	5	5	11
TOTAL		34(56.6%)	16(26.6%)	10(16.6%)	60(100%)

**Table 2. Relationship between sector location on panoramic radiograph and labiopalatal position on cone beam compute tomography images**

Age(years)	Sector Location	Labial	Mid-alveolus	Palatal	Total
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	5	1	5	2	7(15.9%)
Subtotal		30(68.2%)	11(25%)	3(6.8%)	44
$> 15$	1	1	1	0	2(12.5%)
	2	1	2	1	4(25%)
	3	1	0	2	3(18.7%)
	4	1	2	1	4(25%)
	5	0	0	3	3(18.7%)
Subtotal		4(25%)	5(31.2%)	7(43.8%)	16
TOTAL	1	13	2	1	16
	2	9	3	1	13
	3	9	2	2	13
	4	4	4	1	9
	5	1	5	5	11
TOTAL		34(56.6%)	16(26.6%)	10(16.6%)	60(100%)

## RESULTS

In the  $\leq 15$  years old group, labially impacted canines were most frequent and were more frequent in Sectors 1, 2 and 3. In the  $> 15$  years old group, palatally impacted canines were most

## DISCUSSION

Results of literature review reveal that mesiodistal position of impacted maxillary canine does affect the duration of treatment. Olive (2005) reported that canines impacted in

Sectors 4 and 5 emerged after 21 months of treatment and canines in Sectors 2 and 3 emerged after 8 months of treatment. Therefore, sector location of impacted canines on panoramic radiography could be helpful in treatment planning for impacted canines. In this study we found that in the  $\leq 15$  years group, Sectors 1, 2 and 3 showed more frequent labially impacted canines, Sector 4 showed more frequent mid-alveolus and labially impacted canines and Sector 5 showed more frequent mid-alveolus and palatally impacted canines. In the  $> 15$  years group, the sample size in each category of Sectors 1, 2 and 3 was too small to see a pattern. In the  $> 15$  years group, Sector 4 showed more frequent mid-alveolus and palatally impacted canines and Sector 5 showed the most frequent palatally impacted canines. This finding was in accordance with the results of study conducted by Lindauer *et al.* (1992). Diagnosis of root resorption by impacted canines might further reduce complications during treatment and the presence or absence of root resorption will determine the treatment plan. In our study, root resorption was associated with 30% of 60 impacted canines. The percentage of root resorption was lower than the 40.5% reported by Liu *et al.* (1992), 38% reported by Ericson and Kurol (2000) and 66.7% reported by Walker *et al.* (2005).

### Conclusion

When maxillary canines are impacted or show delayed eruption on panoramic radiographs, CBCT scans would be appropriate to localize the position of impacted canines and assess any root resorption.

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