



Why My Teeth Hasn't Shown Up Yet ! Delayed Tooth Eruption .



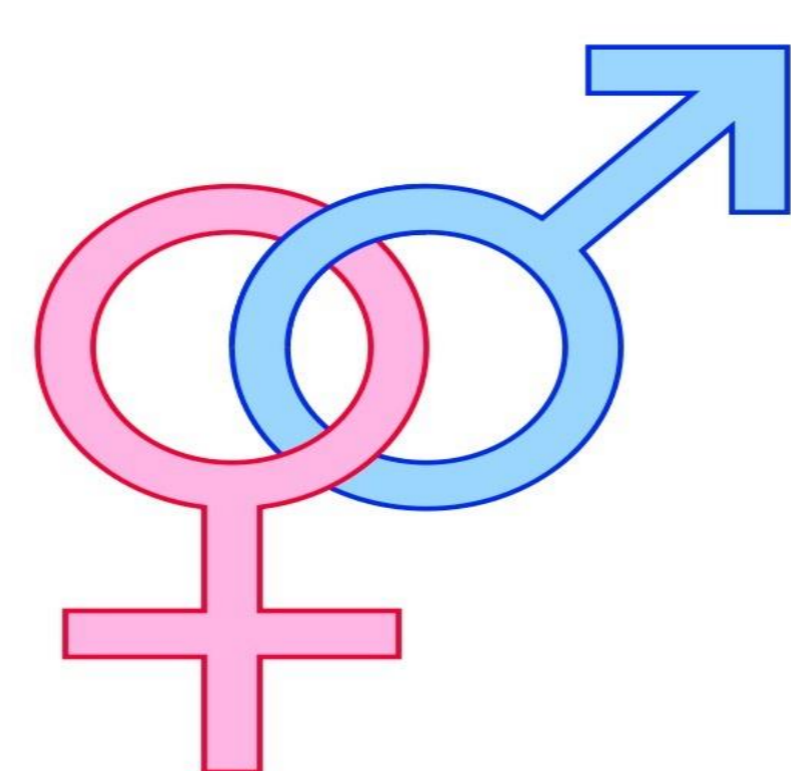
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Introduction

Delayed tooth emergence (DTE) is a clinical term used when exposure of a tooth or multiple teeth through the oral mucosa is overdue, according to population norms based on chronologic age. DTE is common in childhood and adolescence, yet it is often overlooked or dismissed in pediatric primary care. Timely screening and recognition of DTE by clinicians can minimize medical, developmental, functional, and esthetic problems resulting from untreated underlying local and systemic causes .

General considerations

Gender : Studies on teeth emergence shows that permanent teeth erupt earlier in girls than in boys. The difference between eruption times on average is from 6 monthslargest difference being for permanent canines. Earlier eruption of permanent teeth in females is attributed to earlier onset of maturation. ²



Local factors : Physical obstruction is a common local cause of DTE. These obstructions can be because of mucosal barrier, supernumerary teeth, scar tissue, and tumors .Mucosal barrier has also been suggested as an important etiologic factor in DTE. Any failure of the follicle of an erupting tooth to unite with the mucosa will entail a delay in the breakdown of the mucosa and constitute a barrier to emergence. Gingival hyperplasia resulting from various causes (hormonal or hereditary causes, drugs such as phenytoin) might cause an abundance of dense connective tissue or acellular collagen that can be an impediment to tooth eruption. ²



Systemic conditions :The high metabolic demand on the growing tissues might influence the eruptive process. Delayed eruption is often reported in patients who are deficient in some essential nutrient. Chronic malnutrition extending beyond the early childhood is correlated with delayed teeth eruption. Most of the teeth showed a one to four month variation around the mean eruption time. ³



Genetic disorders : Genetics has an important role in development. generalized developmental delay is seen in patients with syndromes. ³



Hereditary Delayed Tooth Eruption ?

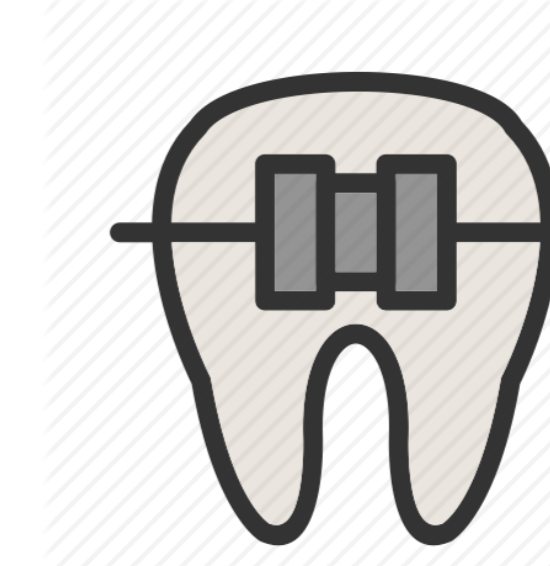
In most cases, delayed tooth eruption is a trait that runs in the family and can be inherited from either parent. If you or your baby's other parent got your first tooth later than average, there is a good chance that your baby will too. If you got your teeth late but there were no other associated medical or developmental issues, you probably don't need to be concerned about your baby. He or she will most likely catch up with no problems. ¹



Treatment Consideration

The treatment of Delayed tooth eruption (DTE) depends on the etiology. A number of techniques have been suggested for treating DTE. The treatment plan should also consider :

- (1) The decision to remove or retain the tooth or teeth affected by DTE.
- (2) The use of surgery to remove obstructions.
- (3) Surgical exposure of teeth affected by DTE.
- (4) The application of orthodontic traction.
- (6) Diagnosis and treatment of systemic disease that causes DTE. ⁴



Conclusion

The sequential and timely eruption of teeth is critical in overall development of the child. Variations can occur due to various reasons, but eruption delay of more than two years should be investigated. Even though genetics has an important role in the erupting process other factors such as gender, body composition, local disturbances, nutritional factors, systemic diseases, can influence the process. But significant cause may be due to systemic conditions and syndromes associated with orofacial structures. Timely diagnosis of DTE is necessary for selecting the right treatment modality.

References

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