

Unusual foreign bodies in permanent dentition - A case report

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ABSTRACT

Trauma is a common cause of fractured teeth with exposed canals in growing children as they are involved in careless playing. Growing children are more explorative in nature and don't think about the consequences of their act. In fractured tooth foreign bodies like stapler pins, all pins, tooth picks etc can be used by children to explore the tooth. There is rarely a possibility of getting any symptom if these foreign bodies fracture or left in the canal of tooth in any incident. As children are afraid of punishment so they hesitate informing their parents regarding such incidents. This case report describes an incidental finding of stapler pin foreign bodies in permanent dentition of a 13 year old girl reported our clinic with chief complaint of swelling in upper front tooth region since 2-3 months.

Introduction

The chance of discovery of a foreign object embedded in a tooth are rare,[1] and requires certain diagnostic procedures to determine the composition and location of the object.[2] Foreign bodies are commonly found in the oral and nasal cavities of children, and are discovered by the dentist during routine examinations.[3] These objects may be the result of the child's own action and may cause pain, oedema, and tooth fracture.[4]

Case Report

A 13 year old girl reported our clinic with chief complaint of swelling in upper front tooth region since 2-3 months. The Patient

gave history of fall from roof of her house six months back & got her upper tooth fractured in the same incident. Patient had the habit of putting stapler pins in her mouth to clean the tooth. On intraoral examination, patient had Ellis class III fracture in her maxillary right central incisor & Ellis class I fracture in her maxillary left central incisor (Figure 1). Soft swelling was present in respect to maxillary right central incisor with mild pain associated with it. The maxillary right central incisor showed grayish black discoloration.

Intraoral Periapical radiograph was then taken that revealed incidental foreign bodies most likely stapler pins within the canals of maxillary right central incisor. The larger size pin extruded 2-3mm through the apex of the tooth whereas the smaller one was 3-4 mm below the apex which was removed from the canal through the H-file



Figure 1: Preoperative radiograph showing radiopacity in the root canal of right maxillary central incisor most likely the stapler pins. Larger one extruding 2-3mm through apex and smaller one 3-4mm below the apex

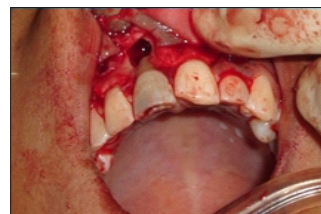


Figure 2: Demonstrates the apicoectomy procedure done to remove the large periapically extruding stapler pin.

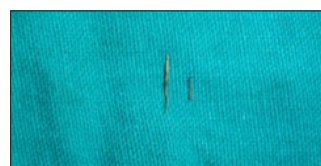


Figure 3: Shows two stapler pins removed from the canal, smaller pin through H-file and larger pin through apicoectomy

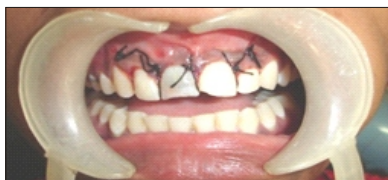


Figure 4: Immediate postoperative view



Figure 5: Postoperative radiograph with obturated canal of right maxillary central incisor.



Figure 6: Postoperative view showing healing after one week

and for larger pin apicoectomy was planned (Figure 2, 3). Haematological investigations were performed which showed no positive findings. Access opening was done in maxillary right central incisor and the small pin was removed from the canal with the help of H- File. Apicoectomy was done for right maxillary central incisor and root canal treatment was completed and sutures were placed (Figure 4, 5 & 6).

Discussion

Children are innocent creation of God and are unaware of consequences of various activities; they perform in their routine life.

There is a common tendency amongst children to put all the objects in their mouth either with a motive to explore it or to experiment with it. This habit can sometimes lead to serious problems which includes ingestion of some foreign body or lodgment of any foreign body in oral cavity. Impaction of foreign bodies in the teeth can cause pain, bleeding and infection.[5] Attempts at removal by the child or parent may result in accidental aspiration or ingestion with serious complications. In the present case, the child did not tell her parents regarding the habit till the time swelling and pain developed.[6] However, children will continue to show ingenuity and innovation in their ability to come up with new problems for their parents and doctors. They maintain a veil of secrecy over these incidents, fearing admonishment by their parents. Society needs to have more dental awareness and regular checkups should be a part of a child's regular health care. An atmosphere of mutual trust, as well as a shift in parental attitudes from authoritarian to a nonjudgmental approach, will rectify the state of affairs.

Conclusion

Health professionals should be alert for the presence of foreign bodies, and educational campaigns should be conducted for emphasizing the dangers of use of foreign objects with teeth.

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