

DENTAL IRREGULARITIES IN IDENTICAL TWINS

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Case Report

The following unusual case concerns identical twins, two eight year old girls. Their parents had observed a small painless swelling in the upper right moral region and labial sulcus of one of them. The swelling continued to increase in size gradually and the patient was later aware of a "lump in her upper jaw". The swelling which was of a slight bluish colour, was an eruption cyst over an unerupted upper molar. The cyst and the overlying tissue were completely removed, the crown of the tooth exposed and healing proceeded normally. The cyst was found to be lined with a thin layer of epithelium consisting of some layers of cells of an embryonic type. Surrounding the lining, there was a layer of fibrous tissue showing signs of inflammatory changes. Besides this cyst, a supernumerary tooth, a mesiodens, ex-

isted in the upper mid-line palatal to the crown of the central incisors. This had no relation with the cyst and was extracted.

Children suffering from the above conditions are occasionally met with, but I found this case of considerable interest owing to the fact that three months later I had to carry out identical treatment on this patient's twin sister — removal of an eruption cyst over an unerupted upper molar and extraction of a supernumerary mesiodens. Measurements of the teeth and jaws of both girls showed that they were the same size, and both had a Class II, Division I occlusion.

Certain morphological characteristics of teeth are genetically determined and may provide interesting data for evaluating the characteristics of twins. It would be quite interesting to hear of any similar occurrences in Malta in different branches of medical practice.