

## COMMENTARY

### ESTHETIC MANAGEMENT OF FUSED CARIOUS TEETH: A CASE REPORT

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The fusion of a supernumerary tooth to a permanent maxillary incisor is an extremely rare condition. The incidence of fused teeth is believed to be < 1% in the general population, and fusion involving supernumerary teeth is even more uncommon.<sup>1,2</sup> Fusion is described as the union between dentin and/or enamel of two or more developing teeth, and its etiology is uncertain.<sup>2,3</sup>

This article by Ballal and colleagues from India's Manipal College of Dental Sciences describes the diagnosis and restorative/esthetic management of such a condition. The article is informative as it describes what is known about dental fusion, including aspects related to possible etiology and differential diagnosis. Furthermore, the article reports a case in which a 22-year-old patient sought dental care owing to esthetics concerns. The cause of the compromised esthetics was a carious supernumerary tooth fused to a permanent maxillary incisor.

The authors describe in detail the technique they used to solve the case, which involved the removal of the fused supernumerary tooth, endodontic therapy, and esthetic rehabilitation of the permanent incisor with resin composite. Although the authors do not digress upon the rationale for using direct resin composite for such an extensive restoration, it is probable that an indirect full-coverage restoration also could have been used.

Being a rare condition, not many such reports exist in the literature.<sup>2,4</sup> The authors should be congratulated for their thoughtful diagnostic process and conservative resolution of the condition, and for sharing the case with the *JERD* readers in the form of a case report.

#### REFERENCES

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