Dental Anatomy

Lec.1

Introduction

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Dental anatomy is defined as the study of the development, morphology, function, and identity of each of the teeth in the human dentitions, as well as the way in which the teeth relate in shape, form, structure, color, and function to the other teeth in the same dental arch and to the teeth in the opposing arch.

Formation of the Dentitions (Overview)

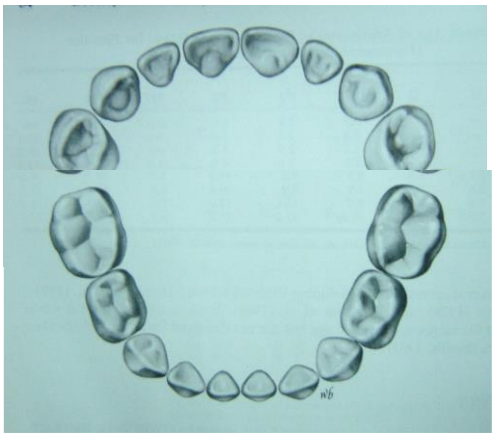
Humans have two sets of teeth in their life time. The first set of teeth to be seen in the mouth is the primary or deciduous dentition, which begins to form prenatally at about 14 weeks in utero and is completed post natally at about 3 years of age. Normally this dentition begin to appear in the oral cavity at the mean age of 6 months, and the last emerge at a mean age of 28years. The deciduous dentition should remains until the child is about 6 years of age. At about that time the first succedaneous or permanent teeth begin to emerge in to the mouth. The emergence of these teeth begins the transitionor mixed dentition period in which there is a mixture of deciduous and succedaneous teeth present. The transition period lasts from about 6to12yearsof age and ends when all the deciduous teeth have been shed. At that time the permanent dentition period begins.

Nomenclature (or the system of names)

The term mandibular refers to the lower jaw, or mandible. The term maxillary refers to the upper jaw, or maxilla.
Dense=tooth
Dental=anything related to teeth
Man is adiphyodont, which means that he has two sets of teeth; deciduous teeth (primary teeth) and permanent (succedaneous) teeth.

The Deciduous Teeth

At birth, there are no teeth present in the mouth, but many teeth in various stages of development are found in the jaws.
After birth (post-natal period), the eruption of deciduous teeth starts at six months and lasts until two and a half years.
The deciduous teeth stay until the permanent teeth erupt at about 6 years of age, when the transition to the permanent dentition begins. The deciduous teeth are 20 in number. They have the following formula:
I = Incisors (central and lateral).
C = Canine.
M = Molars (first and second).

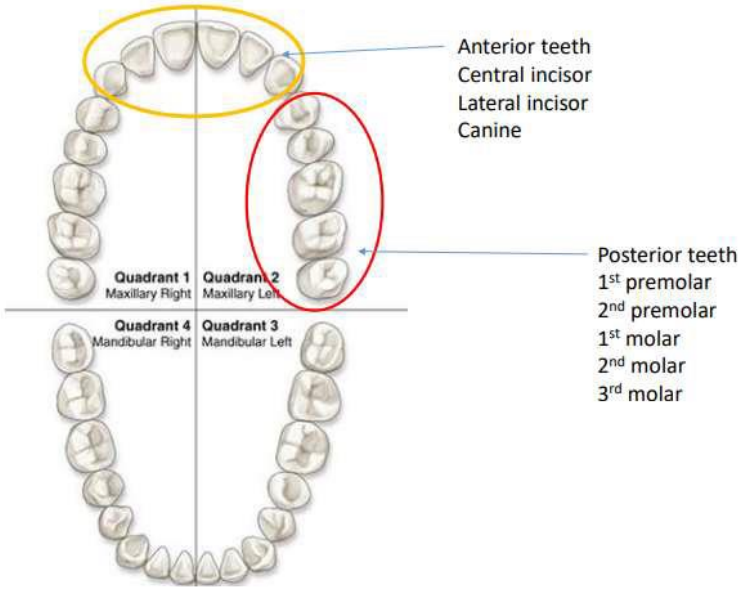


The Permanent Teeth

The transition to permanent dentition begins with the emergence and eruption of the first permanent molars at the age of six years, followed by shedding of the deciduous teeth and emergence and eruption of the remaining permanent teeth. This process requires about 20 years to be completed. The number of permanent teeth, including third molars when present, is 32.
I = Incisors (central and lateral).
C = Canine.
P = Premolars (first and second).
M = Molars (first, second and third).

Anterior and Posterior Teeth

Teeth are grouped into:
1. Anterior teeth which include the incisors and the canines.
2. Posterior teeth which include the premolars and molars.



The Jaw

The jaw is the bone which carries the teeth. There are two jaws:
1. The upper jaw, which is fixed, and is called “The Maxilla”.
2. The lower jaw, which is movable, and is called “The Mandible”.

