

Diagnosis and treatment planning for primary molar ankylosis along with unerupted maxillary premolar: Case report

Mario Cappellette Jr^{1*}, Fauze Ramez Badreddine², Fabio Eduardo Maiello Monteiro Alves³ and Lucia Hatsue Yamamoto Nagai⁴

¹Department of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery, Discipline of Pediatric Otolaryngology, Universidade Federal de São Paulo–UNIFESP/Escola, Paulista de Medicina EPM, São Paulo, Brazil

²Orthodontist, Brazilian Association of Dentistry, São Paulo, Brazil

³Postgraduate student, Division of Pediatric Otolaryngology, Department of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery, Federal University of São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

⁴Orthodontist, Brazilian Association of Dentistry, São Paulo, Brazil

Abstract

Background: Dentoalveolar ankyloses of the deciduous tooth may lead to collapse of the dental arch complicating eruption and development of the succedaneous permanent dentition. The early interceptive orthodontic treatment is recommended to avoid complications on the eruptive process of the successor tooth.

Objective: The aim of this article is to report the orthodontic treatment of a patient with ankylosed maxillary deciduous molar along with unerupted both maxillary second permanent premolars.

Materials and methods: A 15-year-old female patient presented with a complaint about severely intruded maxillary left second deciduous molar and inclination of the adjacent tooth. Computed tomography scan (CT) showed that the premolars were found to be ankylosed and were extracted. The extraction spaces were closed by moving the posterior teeth mesially through NiTi closed springs with miniscrew anchorage.

Results: In the maxillary arch, the first molars were positioned in the place of the second premolars. The occlusal posttreatment evaluation revealed a Class II molar and Class I canine relationship on both sides, normal overjet and overbite, and good intercuspation. Ideal functional occlusion was obtained. Panoramic radiography revealed good positioning and good periodontal health of the teeth, and the parallax of the roots of the teeth. The patient's skeletal pattern was not altered by the mechanics and the facial esthetics was not compromised.

Conclusion: It is important to diagnose the dental ankyloses or impaction problems as early as possible in order to treatment planning achieve better results along stability in long-term.

Introduction and background

A favorable sequence of tooth eruption can be broken by a disturbance in the mixed dentition period leading to permanent tooth impaction [1]. Studies have related that the prevalence of impacted or unerupted premolars rank third in frequency after third molars and maxillary canines [2,3]. The prevalence of impacted premolars has been varied according to age [3,4]. The overall prevalence in adults has been reported to be 0.5% with a range is 0.1% to 0.3% for maxillary premolars and 0.2% to 0.3% for mandibular premolars [3,5].

Tooth impaction refers to tooth that fail to erupt [5-7] whose etiological factors may involve arch length deficiency, mechanical blockage, ectopic positioning, malformed teeth, trauma, systemic diseases, and over-retention of primary teeth or ankylosed primary teeth [2,8].

Dentoalveolar ankylosis is an eruption anomaly defined as the union of the tooth root to the surrounding bone [2,8-15] with local elimination of the periodontal ligament and it may impede the normal development of teeth [14,16]. The affected teeth are usually deciduous molars with the condition affecting the mandibular second molar most

often and the maxillary first molar least often [17]. The etiology of this condition is still not well-defined [6,11,14,17-21] and there is a debate due to the lack of knowledge about its biological mechanisms [22]. It is associated with trauma [9,23], metabolic disorders [9,23], developmental disturbance [24], genetic tendency [8], and a deficiency in vertical-bone growth [10]. A higher incidence occurs at the molar region during the deciduous and mixed dentition [15]. The incidence of deciduous-tooth dentoalveolar ankylosis was reported to be 1.5% to 9.9% [15].

Diagnosis of dental ankylosis is generally established through clinical findings in which include metallic sounds upon percussion, lack of tooth mobility, and dental infraocclusion. However, some patients

Correspondence to: Mario Cappellette Jr, D.D., Ph.D., Department of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery, Discipline of Pediatric Otolaryngology, Universidade Federal de São Paulo–UNIFESP/Escola Paulista de Medicina EPM, São Paulo, Brazil; Tel: 5511999784798; E-mail: mjrcappellette@terra.com.br

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may not exhibit a metallic sound or the loss of periodontal ligament space does not appear on radiographs [18]. A reliable sign of ankylosis has been dental infraocclusion that do not respond to orthodontic forces [18]. The ankylosed tooth does not follow the normal vertical growth of the alveolar process in a growing child, and a deficiency occurs, causing the tooth to be even more impacted [23].

The presence of ankylosed primary teeth may complicate eruption and development of the succedaneous permanent dentition [10], and it can lead to problems on occlusion [15], function, and esthetics [18]. When the exfoliation of affected teeth is delayed, complication such as deflected eruption paths for adjacent or opposing teeth, impaction of succedaneous teeth and depending on the degree of submergence of the ankylosed teeth, the position of the tooth germ may be affected, and hooked roots or impaction of permanent successors may occur [10,25].

Rotated or poorly angulated premolars and a tooth directed horizontally or apically usually indicate a failure in normal root resorption of the primary molar [26]. The teeth that are not viable should be considered for extraction followed by orthodontic treatment regarding space management. Therefore, an early diagnosis and an effective treatment plan are fundamental to prevent further eruption deviations and more severe malocclusion [10,15,27].

The article presents a case report with dentoalveolar ankylosis of the deciduous upper molar and impaction of the succeeding permanent teeth in which the patient was treated with extraction of the premolars and mesialization of the posterior segments using miniscrews.

Diagnosis and etiology

Patient female, was 15 years and 5 months, presented with a complaint about severely intruded maxillary left second deciduous molar and inclination of the adjacent tooth. The patient was referred to the orthodontist by maxillofacial surgeon, who found 2 impacted maxillary premolars (Figure 1) She had no oral habits or swallowing problems, normal functional movements, including movements of the temporomandibular joint, and family's medical history was non-contributory.

The facial analysis showed a balance face with lip seal at rest, a straight profile with a slight protrusion of the bottom lip (top lip, S-line, 0 mm; bottom lip, S-line, 2 mm) and an acceptable nasolabial angle. From a frontal view, there was a slight vertical excess of the lower third of the face. (Figure 1)

The intraoral examination revealed an Angle Class III malocclusion, Class I canine relationship. The both maxillary second premolars were clinically absent, the second deciduous molars were retained, and the left second deciduous molar was severely intruded, suggestive of dentoalveolar ankylosis, the alveolar process in this region had a deficiency in vertical development, and the maxillary left first permanent molar was mildly inclined mesially. The overjet and overbite were 4.05 and 2.56 mm, respectively, quadrangular-shaped arches, and no midline deviation. Arch-length deficiency was 0 mm in the maxilla and -5mm in the mandible. Oral hygiene is satisfactory. (Figure 1,2).

Panoramic radiography revealed impacted maxillary second premolars close to the wall of the maxillary sinus, and they had a severely altered path of eruption. The upper and lower third molars could be observed (Figure 3). The cephalometric analysis demonstrated a skeletal Class I jaw relationship (ANB angle, 1.88°) with a hyperdivergent facial profile (SN-MP angle, 43.02°), linguoversion of the maxillary incisors



Figure 1. Extraoral and intraoral pretreatment photographs



Figure 2. Pretreatment dental casts

(U1-SN angle, 98.95°), and linguoversion of the mandibular incisors (IMPA, 80.73°). The increased mandibular length (Co-Gn, 125.89mm; Co-A, 91,38mm), mandibular prognathism (Pog-Nperp, 8,33mm), and the linguoversion of the lower incisors confirmed a tendency for a Class III relationship (Figure 3).

The computed tomography (CT) was used to evaluate the location and orientation of impacted teeth and the possibility that the premolars were ankylosed and would not respond to the orthodontic force. The CT images showed a visible evidence of ankylosis of the both impacted second premolars and the left second deciduous molar making impossible the traction of the second premolars. The areas of ankylosis were observed on slices 38, 40 and 42 (maxillary right second premolar) and on slices 86, 88 and 90 (maxillary left second premolar) showing the absence of periodontal ligament continuity (Figure 4), (Table 1).

Treatment objectives

1. Maxilla: close the space after the extractions of ankylosed right second deciduous molar, retained left second deciduous molar, and impacted and ankylosed second premolars by the association of miniscrews to mesialize maxillary posterior teeth to avoid losing any anchorage and to control of the incisors vestibulolingual tipping, and the canine relationship during the space closure.
2. Mandible: maintain the maxillomandibular relationship during orthodontic treatment.
3. Occlusion: establish proper incisors and canine occlusion, obtain simultaneous bilateral contacts in harmony with centric relation, and disclude the posterior (canines guides) in mandibular excursive movements.

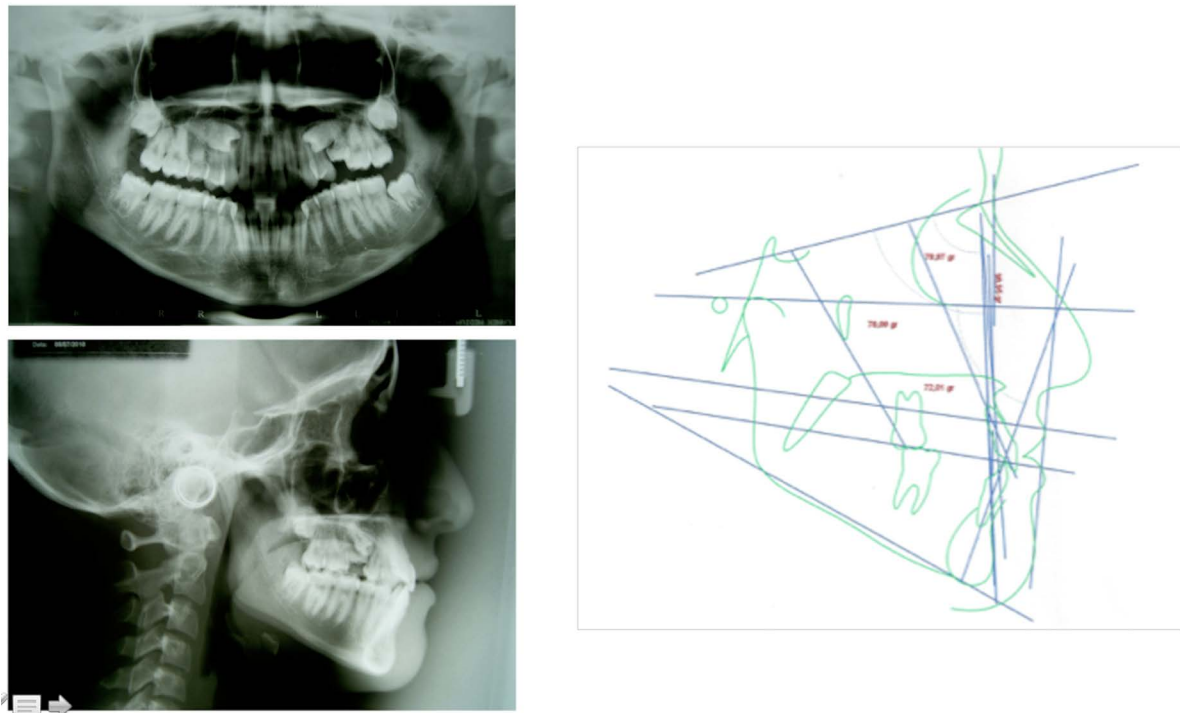


Figure 3. Pretreatment radiographs and cephalometric tracing

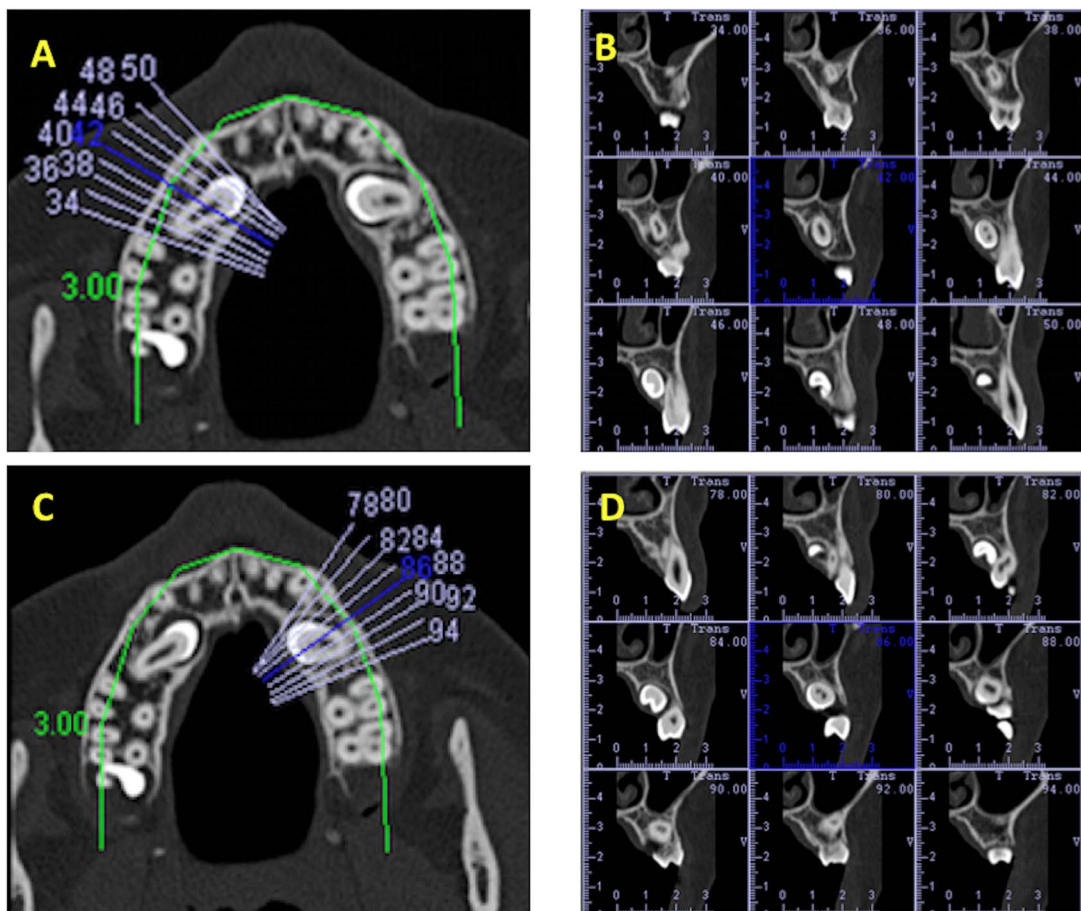


Figure 4. a & b) Pretreatment parasagittal slices images of the CBCT on the right side. c & d) Pretreatment parasagittal slices images of the CBCT on the left side.

Table 1. Comparison of pretreatment and posttreatment cephalometric measurements.

Measurement	Pretreatment	Posttreatment
SNA (°)	79.97	81.99
SNB (°)	78.09	78.25
ANB (°)	1.88	3.73
Mandibular body length (mm)	125.89	128.57
Maxillary body length (mm)	91.38	93.98
Pog-Nperp	8.33	0.52
SN-MP (°)	43.02	39.86
U1-SN	98.95	99.02
IMPA	80.73°	88.09
Anterior facial height (mm)	68.18	74.52
Top lip to Steiner' S-line (mm)	0	
Bottom lip to Steiner' S-line (mm)	2	
Overjet (mm)	4.05	3.08
Overbite (mm)	2.56	2.34

S, Sella; N, nasion; A, Point A; B, Point B; Go, gonion; Me, menton; Pog, pogonion; MP, mandibular plane; U1, maxillary incisor; IMPA, incisor mandibular plane angle.

Treatment alternatives

There are 2 conventional treatment options for impacted teeth in adults: extraction or orthodontic relocation. The extraction of a severely impacted tooth tends to leave a periodontal defect at the adjacent tooth and its orthodontic relocation may benefit the surrounding structure by bringing the bone along as the tooth erupts [28]. The major concern in planning for this patient, besides the unfavorable position of the impacted teeth, was the possibility of ankylosis of the maxillary second premolars. Considering the CT diagnosis which confirmed the ankylosis, the treatment should be to extract the second premolars.

The use of the miniscrews was planned for mesialization of the posterior segments. It has settled as an important anchorage method for the control of the incisors and the canine relationship during the space closure.

The osseointegrated single-tooth implant would represent another option of treatment. However, the age of patient and inadequate bone could jeopardize long-term implant outcomes. Growth changes occur in the arches and result in adaptive changes in the teeth. These dental changes may result in a lack of occlusion vertically or malposition of adjacent natural teeth relative to the implant crown [29]. Furthermore, a more favorable occlusion would be obtained with the posterior segment mesialization considering her hyperdivergent facial profile.

Treatment progress

The patient was scheduled to install the orthodontic appliance and then to removal of the ankylosed deciduous second maxillary molars and the impacted and ankylosed second maxillary premolars. However, contrary to the recommendation, the patient had extractions before installing braces. For this reason, the orthodontic appliance had to be installed on the second week of extractions.

The patient was referred to an oral surgeon for extraction of the ankylosed maxillary left second deciduous molar, maxillary right second deciduous molar, and the impacted and ankylosed maxillary second premolars. At surgery, special attention was given to the preservation of the surrounding structures to allow bone thickness for the mesial movement of the posterior teeth (Figure 5).

Passive self-ligating brackets with 0.022 X 0.028-in slots were bonded to both arches. In the maxillary and mandibular arches, nitinol (NiTi) archwires, from 0.014 to 0.020 in, were used for alignment and leveling. In sequence, a rectangular section NiTi archwires of 0.019 X

0.025-in were used for control the mesial movement of the posterior teeth by the association of orthodontic miniscrew. Two miniscrews (7.0 mm length and 1.8 mm diameter; Jeil Medical, Seoul, Korea) were placed between roots of the maxillary canines and first premolars on buccal. The super-elastic nickel titanium (NiTi) springs (closed coil springs) extending from the miniscrew to molar was used to move the posterior teeth mesially due to their consistent and constant force delivery (Figure 6). Class III elastics were used on the both sides for 7 months, to prevent mesial inclination of the canines and help control the incisors position. The first molar was completely mesialized after 23 months of traction.

As a result of the mesial movement of the molar, the bony defect caused by the impacted maxillary left second deciduous molar was resolved and normal alveolar bone height was restored. The infrabony defect caused by the impacted maxillary second premolars can be treated well with orthodontic movement (Figure 7).

Maxillary and mandibular rectangular arches of 0.019 X 0.025 in were used to finalize the tooth positions. The brackets, bands and the miniscrews were removed after 37 months of treatment. After the active treatment phase, a removable maxillary Hawley retainer and a mandibular lingual bonded retainer were used to maintain the tooth positions.

Treatment results

The posttreatment records show a satisfactory treatment result (Figure 7-9).

- 1. Maxilla: Extraction of the second permanent premolars was necessary because they were ankylosed. There was control of



Figure 5. Intraoral photographs after surgery.

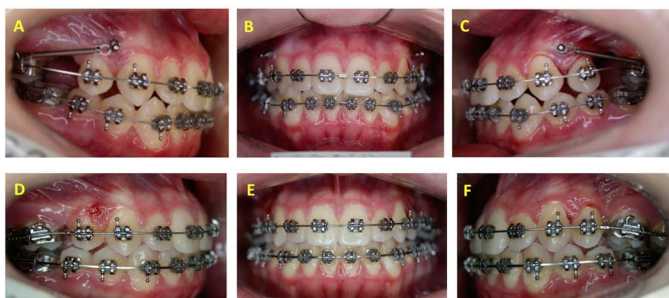


Figure 6. (a, b, c, d, e & f) Progress intraoral photographs. Miniscrews were placed between roots of the maxillary canines and first premolars and used to move the maxillary posterior teeth mesially.

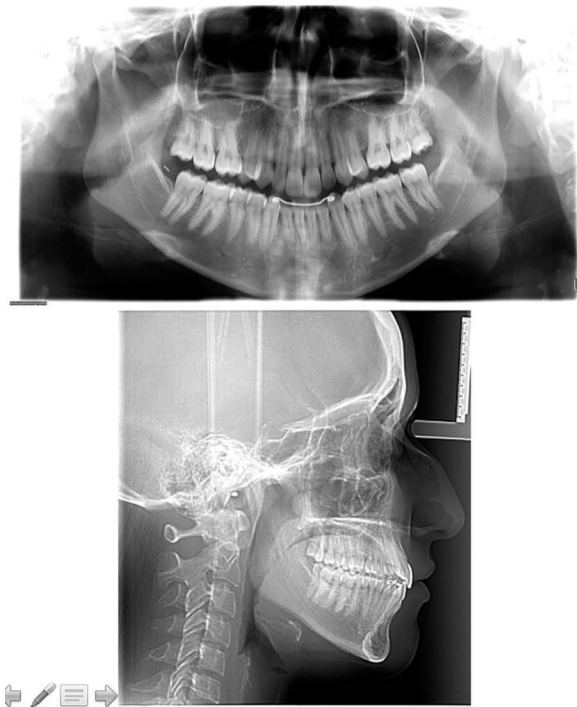


Figure 7. Posttreatment radiographs and cephalometric tracing

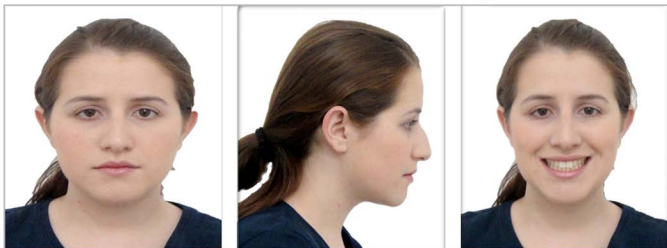


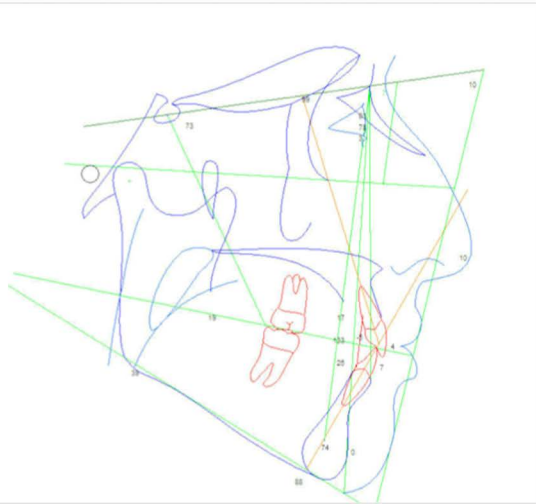
Figure 8. Extrabucal posttreatment photographs



Figure 9. Intraoral posttreatment photographs

the anchorage during mesialization of the posterior teeth using miniscrews. Its vertical and transverse positioning was maintained.

2. Mandible: adequate overjet and overbite, since the patient had a straight profile. The vertical, anteroposterior, and transverse positions were maintained.
3. Occlusion: in the maxillary arch, the first molars were positioned in the place of the second premolars. The occlusal posttreatment evaluation revealed a Class II molar and Class I canine relationship



on both sides, normal overjet and overbite, and good intercuspation. Ideal functional occlusion was obtained.

4. Panoramic radiography revealed good positioning and good periodontal health of the teeth, and the parallax of the roots of the teeth. The radiograph showed acceptable alveolar bone height between the maxillary left first premolar and the first molar with a cortical bone layer, and the roots were well aligned with no significant root resorption (Figure 10).
5. Facial esthetics: the patient's skeletal pattern was not altered by the mechanics and the facial esthetics was not compromised. (top lip, S-line=0 mm; bottom lip, S-line=2 mm).

The mean duration of treatment was 37 months. Results that are finalization in Class II relationship without changing the patient's pattern as well as the overjet and the overbite.

Discussions

The process of eruption in the human dentition is complex and poorly understood [30]. The ankylosis of the permanent tooth often impedes the normal development of teeth [27]. Different treatments have been related for the management of tooth ankylosis, which depends upon whether it is a deciduous or permanent tooth, the extent of ankylosis, the time of diagnosis and the location of the affected tooth. Studies [32-35] related that initially root resorption is delayed in infraoccluded molars, however, it turns out to be come regular and the exfoliation occurs normally. Kuroi *et al.* moreover describe a normal exfoliation of infraoccluded primary molars and that alveolar bone achieve a normal height during permanent teeth eruption [24,36-39]. Extraction of the ankylosed deciduous tooth and space management may be indicated in cases of advanced disruption to the occlusion and/or the underlying premolar, severe infraocclusion, and abnormal root resorption due to mesial or distal location of the permanent successor and severe tipping of the adjacent teeth [2,40,41].



Figure 10. Posttreatment dental casts

According to Becker and Karnei-R'em [42], a local change of the transeptal fibers, which are reoriented diagonally downward in the direction to the infraoccluded ankylosed tooth could be observed in young people with infraoccluded deciduous teeth, over many years, and could explain the mesial tipping of the first permanent molar to the ankylosed tooth. Other authors [14] also associate increased susceptibility to periodontal breakdown, with lack of alveolar bone height and formation of periodontal pockets, especially when the ankylosed tooth was retained for a long time or when extraction was needed [15].

Impacted teeth are more often ankylosed in adults [43]. Once the tooth is not accessible to clinical examination, its diagnosis poses difficulties and it has been considered challenging for clinicians. The prognosis of treatment depends on the position of the impacted tooth in relation to the adjacent teeth and their height in the alveolar process. One should also consider the possibility that the impacted tooth could be ankylosed then it will not move orthodontically. The computed tomographic exam is fundamental in establishing effective therapeutic procedures for the patient, as well as for minimizing all alterations that are possibly associated with the impactation or ankylosis of the tooth in the occlusion. The conventional radiographic examination is considered to be of limited value in the detection of ankylosis [44] for the reason that of 2-dimensional nature of the image complicating detection of the ankylosed areas on the labial or lingual root surfaces [45]. These limitations can be overcome by the use of computerized tomography (CT). CT has been considered the examination of choice in this case, since it provides high-resolution imaging, diagnostic reliability, and risk-benefit assessment [46]. Multislice computed tomography was reported to be superior to cone-beam computed tomography for the visualization of the periodontal ligament space [47,48]. However, it also cannot reliably detect the focal area of ankylosis due to factors such as slice thickness [49]. Therefore, there is even a possibility the tooth not to respond to the orthodontic force and the impacted tooth should be monitored during its attempted traction.

The ankylosis and the impaction of the permanent successor tooth may result from malocclusion disturbances of the primary dentition, and the ankylosis makes impossible any mechanism trying guidance eruption. Unfortunately, limitations such as the position of the impacted tooth, ankylosis, dental and skeletal age, teeth involved (periodontal status, tooth shape and size), and the need for compensatory reshaping of teeth [50] could pose problems especially in the late diagnosis. Therefore, as suggested by Kuro [27], an early diagnosis to intervene at the ideal moment and an effective treatment plan to intercept the problem are fundamental to prevent further eruption deviations and more severe malocclusion. In this case, the

impaction of the maxillary second premolar may be associated with over-retained and infraocclusal ankylosed deciduous molar.

Becker and Shochat [51] showed that extraction of an ankylosed tooth allows for recovery of the eruption process of the developing permanent successor and the development of normal root length. In some situations, however, altered morphology and the possibility of dental rotation intrabony make it difficult to management of the space [14].

In this case report, the permanent successor has an altered path of eruption, occlusal disturbance, alveolar bone defects, and the ankylosed primary molar was severely infraoccluded with the adjacent teeth tipping. Infraocclusion of primary molars occurs commonly in mixed dentition, an easily detected clinical alteration which indicates a modification of the eruptive process, a disruption of the alveolar growth, and it is also an indication to possible eruptive disruption of the corresponding premolars [2]. In this situation, early interceptive orthodontic treatment is recommended [10,27] and the extractions was decided in order to allow the closure of the space through the mesialization of the maxillary posterior teeth, to promote more favorable result as possible and allow the bone tissue to adapt better, thus ensuring periodontal and dental stability.

With the advent of orthodontic miniscrews, many situations that were previously difficult to resolve have become real possibilities. With these mechanics, mesial movement of the posterior teeth was achieved without retroclination of the maxillary incisors, which would have been unfavorable in this patient, because of her facial profile, and for maintaining the working excursion of the mandible in canines guides.

In this case, a late diagnosis of dentoalveolar ankylosis of a deciduous tooth may have aggravated the disorder of the eruptive process of the successor tooth, as well as the development of the bone involved and it is in agreement with Krakowiak [52] and Naizf [53] who suggested there can be a modification in premolars development associated with infraoccluded molars. Furthermore, the position and the ankylosis of the impacted permanent tooth, and the periodontal status created difficulties and limitations to the treatment plan. Studies [22,54] state there is a delay in exfoliation of infraoccluded primary molars, however, Nafiz *et al.* found significant results in root resorption delay for first primary molars, but not for second primary molars, it could explain the delay in infraocclusion manifestation in second primary molars. Therefore, conditions predisposing to malocclusion, as infraocclusion of the deciduous tooth that may be associated with development of the permanent successor, should be identified as soon as possible. Early diagnosis avoids later complications; for that reason clinicians should consider clinical, radiological and histological conditions.

Conclusion

It is important to diagnose the dental ankyloses or impaction problems as early as possible in order to treatment planning achieve better results along stability, and for unerupted tooth is detected and analyze its anatomy, eruptive potential and spatial orientation.

The complementary exams such as radiographic or CT are imperative to evaluate de condition of the teeth such as ankyloses or impaction due to disturbed tooth eruption.

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