

PEDODONTICS



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ABSTRACT

Dental injury is common among pre-schoolers. Trauma to the primary dentition usually causes pain, loss of function, aesthetic concerns for the child and his/her family. Loss of teeth due to trauma at young age affects the child socially as well as psychologically. Also, it leads to improper speech at young age. Enhancement of facial aesthetics along with development of proper speech, prevention of untoward oral habits and assisting in sound development for the child during the foundation years is the main goal for treatment planning. Replacement of avulsed primary tooth with an anterior fixed appliance is an elective procedure and is based strongly on parental perception and desires for the treatment.

INTRODUCTION

Apart from early childhood caries, traumatic dental injury is one of the main reason for premature loss of primary maxillary anterior teeth in toddlers and pre-schoolers. Trauma to the oral region occurs frequently and comprises 5% of all injuries for which people seek treatment.¹ In the age group 0–9 years, oral injuries are ranked as the second most common injury covering 18% of all somatic injuries.

Demographic evaluations indicate a higher prevalence for trauma in males as compared to females.² Major reason of dental trauma in children is their weak balance and just having learnt to walk. Common etiological factors are falling, fight, sports, accidents, and hitting items or people at home, school or street.

Approximately 30% of all children under the age of seven sustain injuries to one or more of their primary incisors.³ Out of these most of the injuries occur in primary dentition as seen in ages 2–4 years.

When the tooth is completely exarticulated from the socket it is termed as 'Avulsion'. Avulsions make up to 7–13% of all injuries to primary teeth as reported in the literature.³ Nevertheless, various studies have shown that exarticulation (complete avulsion) of primary teeth due to trauma is relatively infrequent.

Ravn et al⁴ and Andearson et al¹ reported that right central maxillary incisor is the most frequently avulsed tooth as compared to left central maxillary incisor. The right central maxillary incisor made up 41% of the avulsed teeth.

The greatest challenge for rehabilitation is esthetics as well as function to compensate the psycho-social trauma to the patient as well as parent. Various appliances have been designed in order to manage the space due to premature loss of deciduous primary tooth. Appliance can be fixed/removable and functional/non-functional. For children, a fixed functional appliance is desirable as it overcomes the desire to wear and easily accepted.

Choice of treatment depends on the factors like chronological age, dental age, segment of dental arch, status of adjacent teeth, missing tooth.⁵ Parental desire is one of the most decisive factor for selection of appliance. Hence, early intervention results in minimal psychosocial trauma to the child and the parents.

Case

A 4-year-old girl along with her parents reported to Department of Pediatrics and Preventive Dentistry OPD with the chief complaint of missing tooth in upper front tooth region since last 2 years. On recording history of trauma mother gave the history of loss of tooth due to fall while playing. Parents did not report to dentist at the time of trauma. Parents' major concern was patient being reluctant to open her mouth during smile.

On intraoral examination, tooth 61 was missing along with normal surrounding tissue [Figure 1].



Figure 1: Pre-operative occlusal view

Radiographic examination revealed no retained root stump, with normal development of a permanent successor along with normal bone surrounding the area [Figure 2].





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