

### SUMMARY

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Eruption of teeth is expected by many parents at the age of 6 months of life. Physiologically, there are normal variations in the time of tooth eruption.

Our study was carried out to find the prevalence and possible aetiology of delayed eruption of deciduous teeth among infants attending the out-patient clinic of Bab-El-Saarya Hospital.

In order to perform such a study, we selected two days each week for four months in summer ( from 1/6/1981 to 30/9/1981) and for four months in winter (from 1/12/1980 to 31/3/1981) to interrogate all mothers of infants aged 6 to 24 months for their complaint.

In order to clarify the significance of delayed eruption of teeth from the mother's point of

view, we subdivided the cases according to whether the mother was coming for delayed dentition (primary complaint) or she was coming for another complaint but still the infant had unerupted tooth (secondary complaint).

A detailed history and clinical examination were performed in all cases, together with some biochemical tests and roentgenographic examination. Development of all cases was assessed from the history and clinical examination.

Our study also included a trial to delineate the age of tooth eruption among the normal Egyptian infants. In order to do this, one hundred normal infants were randomly selected, and followed up monthly until tooth eruption occurred.

During the 8 months of the study period we interrogated 2273 mothers of infants aged 6-24 months.

Out of these infants 21 were coming with delayed eruption of teeth (primary complaint) and 29 with secondary complaint of delayed eruption of teeth. The total number of cases of delayed eruption of teeth were 50 cases (2.2%).

As regards the season, during summer out of 1323 infants aged 6 - 24 months, delayed eruption of teeth was observed in 24 cases ( 1.81 % ). On the other hand, during winter, out of 950 infants, 26 (2.74 % ) were observed to have no teeth eruptions.

Rickets was the first cause in winter and the second cause in summer, while protein energy malnutrition was the first cause in summer and the third cause in winter, then come the other causes which may be local or systemic disorder as the second cause in winter and the third cause in summer.

The study revealed that the maximal number of

affected children( 42 cases ) were of the age group 12 to 15 months.

The condition as a whole affects females (52%) more than males (48%), but rickets affect males (30 % of all cases ) more than females (20%), on the other hand protein energy malnutrition affects females (18%) more than males (8%).

Our study also revealed that the mean age of eruption of central incisor among normal Egyptian infants in months was  $8.94 \pm 1.96$ . All mothers stated that the normal age of first tooth eruption is during the sixth to seventh month of life. Sixteen mothers related the cause of delayed eruption of teeth to general weakness, 21 mothers stated that they do not know the possible cause while 13 mothers related the cause to positive family history in the siblings.