

CASE REPORTS

A Dual-rooted Maxillary Central Incisor

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It is a well-known truism that maxillary central incisors are single-rooted, single-canaled teeth (1). Ingle and Beveridge (2) state that maxillary central incisors have one canal 100% of the time.

The following case did not, however, adhere to the truism or statistics of 100%. It manifests both two roots and two canals. The suggestion of this can be seen in the original X-ray taken on December 15, 1980 (Fig. 1).

As the pulp was vital and the root incompletely formed, an apexogenesis procedure was instituted on



Fig 1. Original X-ray following trauma on December 15, 1980. Suggestion of second root or root fracture (arrow).

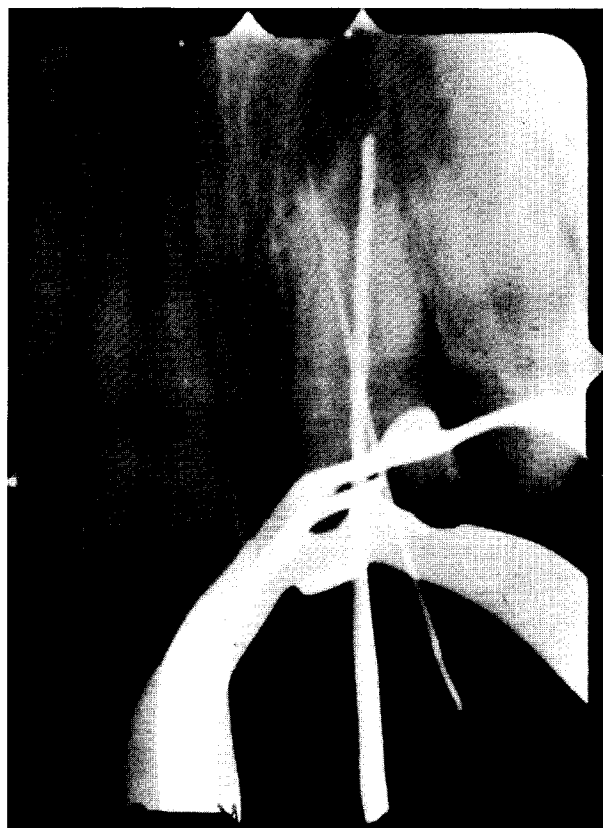


Fig 2. Treatment instituted on June 8, 1981. An instrument in each canal may be seen.

December 15, 1980. On June 8, 1981 it was felt that there was sufficient apical development to permit endodontic treatment (Fig. 2). Treatment was completed uneventfully on June 15, 1981 (Fig. 3). The patient was seen again on December 3, 1982 and the 18-month recall indicated satisfactory healing (Fig. 4).

This case once again demonstrates the need for vigilance in diagnosis and treatment, as even the apparently most routine of cases (e.g. a maxillary central incisor) may deviate from the usual.



FIG 3. Treatment completed on June 15, 1981.



FIG 4. Eighteen-month recall. Note completed root development of adjacent central and lateral incisor.

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References

1. Weine FS. Endodontic therapy. 3rd ed. St. Louis: CV Mosby Co., 1982.
2. Ingle JJ, Beveridge EE. Endodontics. 2nd ed. Philadelphia: Lea & Febiger, 1976:117.

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