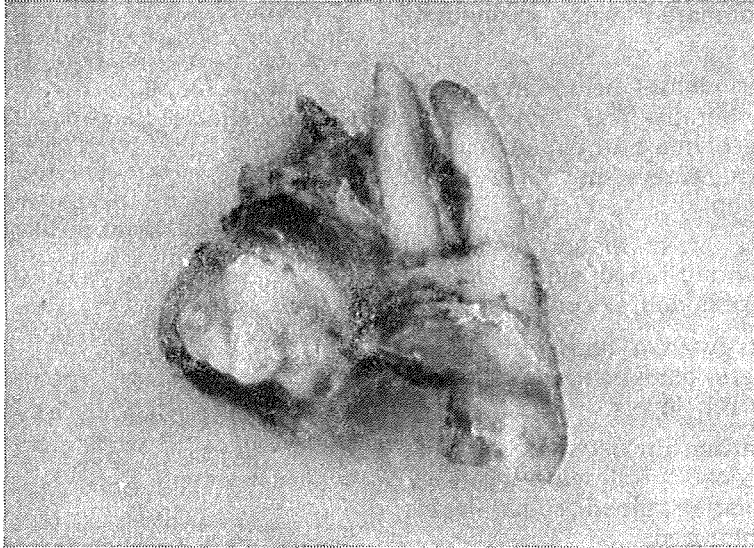


UNION OF MAXILLARY SECOND AND THIRD MOLAR

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Case Report

A male aged 30, had pain and a swelling associated with two partly erupted permanent upper molars. An incision was made and the mucosa reflected. Removal of some bone disclosed that the second and third maxillary molars were in pathological union. These molars and a granulating mass attached to their roots were removed and the rather large cavity sutured.

Pathological union is rare between permanent teeth. It is unknown in Malta between deciduous teeth, the reason being the relatively short period for which they are present in the mouth and the fact that their roots become absorbed and gradually disappear.

In this case, these two molars did not have enough room to come into alignment

and erupt normally. The third molar was misplaced, lack of space not allowing it to rotate into its normal position. In its growth and efforts to erupt, it engaged with the roots of the second molar and the resistance to its eruption resulted in excess production of cementum so that they become joined by this tissue.

The production of cementum is produced by the irritation caused by the pressure of the roots of one tooth against another (Hill). The periodontal membranes may be injured. As a result of this injury and subsequent repair, depositions of cementum may be formed which are continuous from tooth to tooth. In this way a pathological union takes place.

Reference

HILL, T.J., *Oral Pathology*, 61.