

## Diagnostic value of cone beam computed tomography in complex and compound odontomas: a systematic review and open classification matrix

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Authors:

Dubron K MD,MM,DDS<sup>1,2</sup>,

Gurniak A DDS<sup>3</sup>,

Gurniak E DDS<sup>3</sup>,

Politis C MD,DDS,MM,MHA,PhD,Prof<sup>1,4</sup>

Olszewski R DDS,MD,PhD,DrSc,Prof<sup>2,5,\*</sup>

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### Affiliations:

10 <sup>1</sup> Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, University Hospitals Leuven,  
11 Kapucijnenvoer 33, 3000 Leuven, Belgium

12 <sup>2</sup> Department of oral and maxillofacial surgery, Cliniques universitaires saint Luc,  
13 UCLouvain, Av. Hippocrate 10, 1200 Brussels, Belgium

14 <sup>3</sup> Diagdent, ul. Brazylijska 13, Warszawa, Poland

15 <sup>4</sup> OMFS IMPATH Research Group, Department of Imaging & Pathology,  
16 University Hospitals Leuven, Belgium

17 <sup>5</sup> Oral and maxillofacial surgery research lab (OMFS Lab), NMSK, Institut de  
18 recherche expérimentale et Clinique (IREC), SSS, UCLouvain, Brussels, Belgium

19 \*Corresponding author: Prof R. Olszewski, Department of oral and maxillofacial  
20 surgery, Cliniques universitaires saint Luc, UCLouvain, Av. Hippocrate 10, 1200  
21 Brussels, Belgium, phone+3227645718; fax: +3227645876; ORCID  
22 id:orcid.org/0000-0002-2211-7731

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25 official position of the institution or funder.

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## Abstract

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**Objective:** Firstly, this review aims to analyse the recent literature about three-dimensional (3D) diagnostic imaging in complex and compound odontomas and compare it to two-dimensional (2D) imaging. Panoramic radiographs help to evaluate the vertical position of odontomas, and occlusal radiographs are used to evaluate the proximity to adjacent teeth. However, cone beam computed tomography (CBCT) can offer volumetric images, and therefore, a more accurate three-dimensional analysis. Secondly, this research aims to construct an open classification matrix for complex and compound odontomas for dentomaxillofacial CBCT radiology protocols based on a systematic literature review.

**Material and methods:** Two systematic literature searches were conducted in PubMed (Medline), on 2 February 2022 concerning classification systems, and on 5 February 2022 concerning CBCT images.

**Results:** In total, these searches revealed 391 papers by reviewing the databases mentioned above. Six articles were selected for inclusion on classification of odontomas and 13 articles were found on CBCT imaging. Consequently, the construction of an open classification matrix for compound and complex odontomas for dentomaxillofacial CBCT radiology protocols was performed using these 19 articles.

**Conclusions:** CBCT offers a more precise position and accurate diagnosis of complex and compound odontomas compared to 2D imaging. Consequently, it enhances the detailed view of the site (multiple or unique), location (intraosseous, partially or completely extragnathic), size, extension (bony expansion, thinning or perforation cortical bone), density and type (denticulo type, particle type, denticulo-particle type, denticulo-amorphous type, amorphous tissue), relationship (with the crown or root of the definitive tooth), adjacent teeth resorption (deciduous or definitive), adjacent teeth (retention or impaction), and distance with adjacent structures (inferior alveolar nerve, sinus maxillaris), as well as adequate surgical planning. Moreover, this research presents an open classification matrix for the most complete description of compound and complex odontomas when analysing CBCT imaging.

**Keywords:** cone beam computed tomography, CBCT, complex odontoma, compound odontoma, odontogenic tumour

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## Introduction

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Odontomas are the most common odontogenic tumours, according to the World Health Organization's (WHO) International Classification of Tumours. Odontomas are defined as malformations or hamartomas in which both epithelial and mesenchymal cells present complete differentiation with enamel formation and dentin [1]. However, all different tooth components can be found in an odontoma (enamel, dentine, cementum, dental follicle, and pulp elements). This odontogenic tumour can occur in two forms: a complex odontoma or a compound odontoma. Mostly these tumours occur at a young age and are usually discovered by coincidence or as tooth eruption is compromised. The diagnosis is therefore usually made around or shortly after tooth eruption, and at that time, calcification of any odontoma is already complete. Odontomas are mostly intraosseous lesions, rarely found in soft tissues, and mostly associated with the permanent dentition. Histologically, the diagnosis is made when enamel and dentine are present [2]. Radiologically, an orthopantomogram (OPG) or panoramic radiographs may help to evaluate the vertical position, level of calcification of odontomas, and impaction of deciduous or permanent teeth, and detailed occlusal radiographs can evaluate their relation to adjacent teeth. However, diagnosis on a two-dimensional image is not always straightforward. Consequently, cone beam computed tomography (CBCT) can reveal a more precise positioning, both vertically and horizontally, the composition of odontomas, root resorption, and closer relations to the adjacent teeth and cortical border [2]. CBCT is used in oral and maxillofacial surgery for its low cost, easy accessibility, and low radiation compared with multi-slice computerized tomography [3]. Therefore, the relevance of CBCT on diagnosis, the value of a classification matrix, and appropriate surgical planning of complex and compound odontomas will be discussed in this review.

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## Materials and methods

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### Search strategy

Two systematic search strings on computerized database were conducted on 2 February 2022 (classification) and 5 February 2022 (CBCT figures). The database PubMed (Medline) was used, and a search string was conducted by one observer to identify studies that included two concepts: odontomas and diagnostic imaging. Two search equations were used to build an open classification matrix for compound and complex odontoma for dentomaxillofacial CBCT radiologists. [4-22] Only full free articles accessible were included.

To find already existing classifications on odontoma, the first search equation was used: ("odontoma"[MeSH Terms] OR "odontoma"[All Fields] OR "odontomas"[All

Fields]) AND ("classification"[MeSH Terms] OR "classification"[All Fields] OR "classifications"[All Fields] OR "classification"[MeSH Subheading] OR "classification s"[All Fields] OR "classifier"[All Fields] OR "classifiers"[All Fields])) AND ((ffrft[Filter]) AND (2003:2022[pdat])). The search was performed on 2 February 2022. The exclusion criteria were articles without CBCT figures of complex and/or compound odontoma, no free access to the pdf of the article, retracted articles, and articles written in other language than English or French. We included only articles with available figures of odontoma using CBCT.

To find CBCT figures of compound or complex odontoma, a second search equation was used: ("odontoma"[MeSH Terms] OR "odontoma"[All Fields] OR "odontomas"[All Fields]) AND ((ffrft[Filter]) AND (2003:2022[pdat])). The search was performed on 5 February 2022. The exclusion criteria were articles without CBCT figures of complex and/or compound odontoma, no free access to the pdf of the article, retracted articles, and articles written in other language than English or French. Only articles with available figures of odontoma using CBCT were included.

### Article selection

The time period was limited from 2003 (first CBCT device accessible for dentists) to 2022. The selected languages were English and French. The inclusion criteria were free full text articles on central compound and/or complex odontoma. The exclusion criteria were experimental studies, animal studies, studies not specifically related to compound or complex odontoma. Moreover, available figures on odontoma were searched using CBCT in all selected articles.

## Results

This search revealed 391 papers by reviewing the databases mentioned above. Consequently, 47 articles were found for the first search string on classification. Six articles were selected [4-9], and 41 articles were excluded. However, these 6 selected articles gave no figures of odontoma when using CBCT. For the second search string regarding CBCT figures, 344 articles were found. After application of inclusion/exclusion criteria 13 articles were selected. Six articles (and 7 CBCT figures) were found on complex odontomas [10-15]. Seven articles (and 14 CBCT figures) were found on compound odontomas [16-22].

Finally, the construction of the open classification matrix for compound and complex odontoma for dentomaxillofacial CBCT radiologists (Table 1) was performed using 19 articles [4-22]. Both figures from literature as from our patients were included. All figures can be found as 'FIG' in this study under the subtitle 'clinical case presentation', or as 'figure' referring to an open access article with the number of the figure found in the article. Already existing classifications were used,

146 as well as new classifications. The new classifications from this study are marked as  
 147 '[add]'. The FDI World Dental Federation (ISO) notation was used for teeth  
 148 numbering.  
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150 **Table 1. Open classification matrix for compound and complex**  
 151 **odontoma for dentomaxillofacial CBCT radiologists.** Open  
 152 classification matrix using 19 articles for complex and compound  
 153 odontomas describing: 1) Giant odontoma; 2) Quantity; 3) Location within  
 154 the arch; 4) Location in relation with adjacent teeth; 5) Maxilla location; 6)  
 155 Mandible location; 7) Type; 8) Complications.

	<b>Compound odontoma</b>	<b>Complex odontoma</b>
Giant odontoma (>3cm)		(figure 3) [14]  (This study FIG 37-FIG 50)
Quantity		
Unique site	(figure 2, figure 5) [7]; (figure 3) [16]; (figure 1) [17]; (figure 6A, 6C, 6D) [18]; (figures 3-8) [20]; (figure 1) [21]; (figure 4C) [22]  (This study FIG 1-FIG 25)	(figure 1, maxillary tuberosity) [10]; (figures 1, 2) [11]; (figure 1) [12]; (figure 3) [14]; (figure 1) [15]; (figure 6B) [18]  (This study FIG 26-FIG 32)
Multiple sites	(This study FIG 33-FIG 35)	(figure 3) [13]
Location within the arch [4]		
Intraosseous [9]	(figure 3) [16]; (figure 1) [17]; (figure 6A, 6C, 6D) [18]; (figure 2, figure 5) [19]; (figures 3-8) [20]; (figure 1) [21]; (figure 4C) [22]  (This study FIG 1-FIG 19, FIG 21-FIG 25, FIG 33-FIG 36)	(figure 1, maxillary tuberosity) [10]; (figures 1, 2) [11]; (figure 1) [12]; (figure 1) [15]; (figure 6B) [18]  (This study FIG 26-FIG 32)
[add] Pre-erupted state (perforation of alveolar bone on the dental arch)	(This study FIG 20, FIG 33, FIG 34, FIG 36)	
Erupted [9]		(figure 3) [13]; (figure 3) [14]  (This study FIG 38-FIG 40, FIG 42, FIG 45-FIG 48)
Extragnathic		(This study FIG 37-FIG

		50)
[add] Partially extragnathic	(This study FIG 33, FIG 34, FIG 36)	(This study FIG 26, FIG 27)
Location in relation with adjacent teeth		
Inside and/or[add] between deciduous tooth roots and above definitive tooth [23]	(figure 3) [16]; (figure 1) [17]; (figure 6A) [18]; (figure 1, figure 4C) [22]  (This study FIG 1, FIG 3, FIG 4, FIG 15, FIG 16, FIG 18)	
Lateral to deciduous tooth [23]		
In dentigerous cyst which is occlusal to deciduous tooth [23]	(figures 3-8) [20]	
Inside follicle surrounding deciduous tooth [23]		
Around the root/roots of the deciduous tooth [23]	(This study FIG 15)	
[add] Occlusal to the definitive teeth	(figure 1) [21]  (This study FIG 1, FIG 3, FIG 4, FIG 15, FIG 16, FIG 22, FIG 25, FIG 33-FIG 35)	(figures 1, 2) [11]; (figure 3) [13]
[add] Around the crown of the definitive tooth	(This study FIG 34)	(figure 1) [12]; (figure 6B) [18]
[add] Around the root of the definitive tooth	(figure 6C, 6D) [18]  (This study FIG 11-FIG 14, FIG 33-FIG 35)	(figure 1) [15]  (This study FIG 30)
[add] Lateral to definitive teeth	(figure 2, figure 5) [19]  (This study FIG 2-FIG 6, FIG 8-FIG 10, FIG 17, FIG 21-FIG 25, FIG 33-FIG 35)	
[add] Replacement of definitive teeth	(This study FIG 19, FIG 20, FIG 22-FIG 24)	(figure 3) [14]
[add] Distal to last tooth on the arch		(figure 1, maxillary tuberosity) [10]
[add] Apical to apices of teeth		(This study FIG 26, FIG 28, FIG 29)
[add] Maxilla location		
Anterior (teeth 13-23) [5-7, 9]	(figure 3) [16]; (figure 6A, 6C) [18]; (figure 1) [21]; (figure 4C) [22]	(figure 1) [15]; (figure 6B) [18]

	(This study FIG 1-FIG 4)	
Premolar (teeth 15-13, 25-23)	(figure 1) [17]; (figure 6D) [18]; (figures 3-8) [20]  (This study FIG 5-FIG 7, FIG 33-FIG 35)	(This study FIG 26, FIG 42, FIG 45-FIG 48)
Molars (teeth 18-16, 28-26)	(This study FIG 33-FIG 35)	(figure 1, maxillary tuberosity) [10]; (figures 1, 2) [11]; (figure 1) [12]  (This study FIG 42, FIG 45-FIG 48)
[add] Mandible location		
Anterior (teeth 43-33)	(This study FIG 8-FIG 25)	(figure 6B) [18]  (This study FIG 28, FIG 29)
Premolar (teeth 45-43, 35-33)	(figure 2, figure 5) [19]	(figure 3) [14]
Molar (teeth 48-46, 38-36) [5-7, 9]		(figure 3) [13]; (figure 3) [14]  (This study FIG 30)
Type [4]		
Denticulo- type [4, 6]	(figure 1) [17]; (figure 2, figure 5) [19]; (figure 4C) [22]  (This study FIG 1-FIG 4, FIG 19-FIG 21, FIG 33-FIG 36)	
Particle type [4]	(figures 3-8) [20]; (figure 1) [21]  (This study FIG 5-FIG 7, FIG 11-FIG 14)	
Denticulo-particle type [4]	(figure 3) [16]  (This study FIG 8-FIG 10)	
[add] denticulo-amorphous type	(This study FIG 15, FIG 18, FIG 22-FIG 25)	(This study FIG 42, FIG 43, FIG 45-FIG 48, FIG 50)
Amorphous tissue [4]	(This study FIG 15, FIG 17, FIG 25)	(figure 1, maxillary tuberosity) [10]; (figures 1, 2) [11]; (figure 1) [12]; (figure 3) [14]; (figure 3)



		[13]; (figure 1)[15]  (This study FIG 26-FIG 30, FIG 32, FIG 37-FIG 44, FIG 49)
Complications		
[add] Adjacent deciduous teeth resorption	(This study FIG 1, FIG 3, FIG 4)	
[add] Adjacent definitive teeth resorption	(This study FIG 5, FIG 6, FIG 16, FIG 21, FIG 33, FIG 34)	(figure 1)[15]  (This study FIG 30, FIG 45)
[add] Relationship with inferior alveolar nerve or with other cranial nerves		(This study FIG 31, FIG 32, FIG 38-FIG 41, FIG 46, FIG 47)
Deciduous teeth retention [4, 6, 7, 9]	(figures 3-8) [20]	
Definitive teeth retention/impaction [6, 7, 9]	(figure 3) [16]; (figures 3-8) [20]; (figure 1) [21]  (This study FIG 1, FIG 3, FIG 4, FIG 15, FIG 16, FIG 18, FIG 19, FIG 22, FIG 25, FIG 33-FIG 35)	Displacement of tooth 18 (figures 1, 2) [11]
Displacement of teeth/malposition [4, 9]/[add] rotation/diastema between teeth	(figure 1) [17]; (figures 3-8) [20]  (This study FIG 11, FIG 12, FIG 14)	Displacement of tooth 18 (figures 1, 2) [11]; Displacement of tooth 45 (figure 3) [14]
Transmigration of teeth	(This study FIG 15, FIG 16, FIG 18, FIG 22, FIG 25)	
Bony expansion [4, 6]	(This study FIG 16, FIG 17, FIG 24)	
[add] thinning of vestibular/buccal cortical bone related to the odontoma	(This study FIG 1, FIG 16, FIG 20, FIG 21, FIG 24)	(This study FIG 29, FIG 31)
[add] perforation of vestibular/buccal cortical bone related to the odontoma		
[add] thinning of lingual/palatine cortical bone related to the odontoma	(This study FIG 6, FIG 7, FIG 16, FIG 20, FIG 24, FIG 34)	(This study FIG 32)
[add] perforation of lingual/palatine cortical bone related to the odontoma	(This study FIG 9)	
Mouth opening limitation [10]		(figure 1) [10]

Delayed root formation [12]		(figure 1) [12]
[add] Fusion between odontoma and follicular sac of adjacent impacted tooth	(This study FIG 1, FIG 2)	
[add] Oro-antral fistula/communication		(This study FIG 39, FIG 45-FIG 48)
[add] Maxillary sinus expansion		(This study FIG 40)
[add] Hyperostosis of maxillary sinus walls		(This study FIG 39, FIG 40, FIG 43-FIG 48)
[add] Thinning/erosion of maxillary sinus walls		(This study FIG 41, FIG 43)
[add] Perforation of maxillary sinus walls		(This study FIG 42, FIG 44, FIG 46-FIG 48)

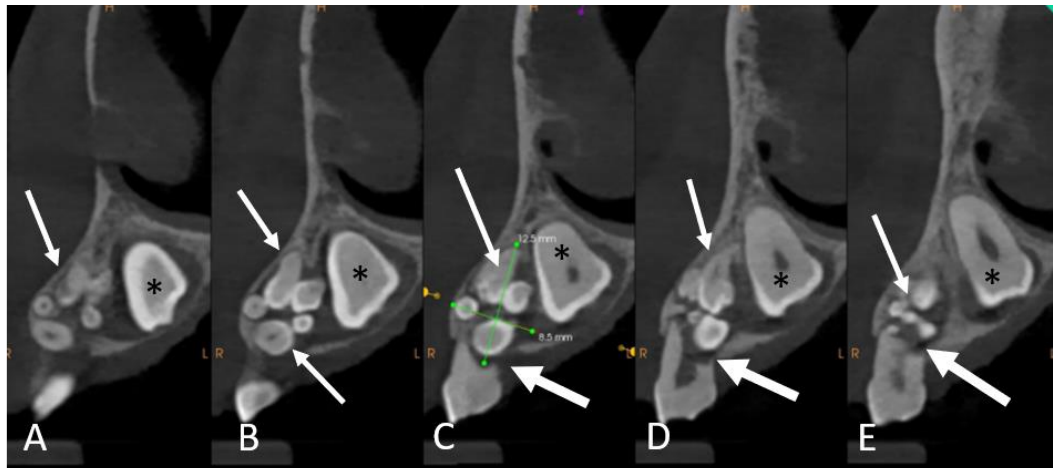
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**Clinical cases presentation for compound odontoma**

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**Maxilla, denticulo-type in canine area**



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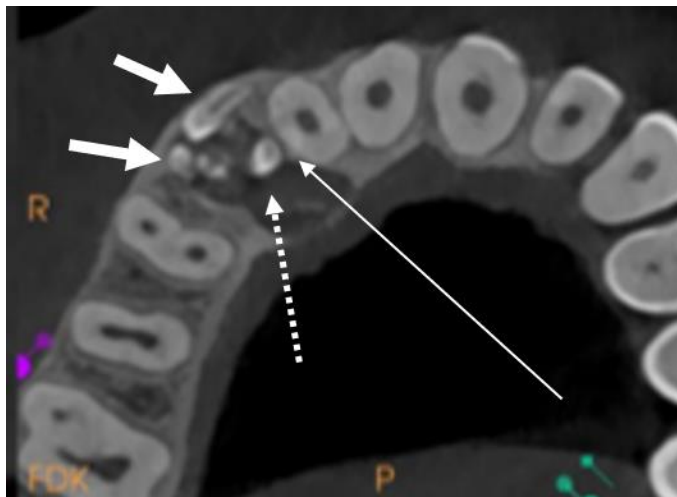
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**Fig. 1. Patient n°1. (Patient 14 years-old).** Carestream 9600 CBCT. A-E: Multi-reformatted coronal view. \* Impacted tooth n°13. A-E: small arrow: denticulo-type compound odontoma situated between deciduous tooth n°53 and impacted tooth n°13. C-E: thick arrow: external resorption of the tooth n°83 by the odontoma. B-D: association of the odontoma with the follicular sac surrounding the crown of the tooth n°13. C, D: thinning of the vestibular cortical bone by the odontoma.



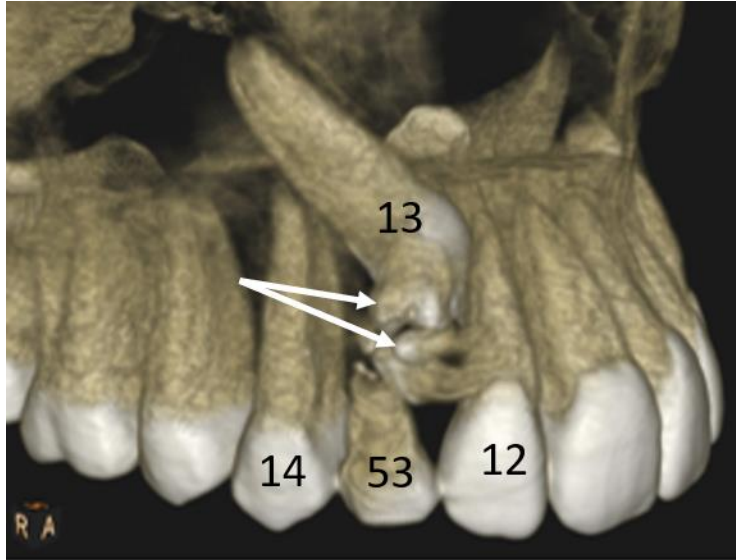
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**Fig. 2. Patient n°1. (Patient 14 years-old).** Carestream 9600 CBCT. Axial view. Thick arrows: denticulo-type compound odontoma thinning the vestibular cortical bone. Dotted arrow: fusion between the odontoma and the follicular sac of the tooth n°13. Thin arrow: close contact between the odontoma and the root of the tooth n°12, without external resorption.



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**Fig. 3. Patient n°1. (Patient 14 years-old).** Carestream 9600 CBCT. Multi-reformatted sagittal view. Arrows: denticulo-type compound odontoma between tooth n°53 and tooth n°13 (\*). Discontinuous arrow: external resorption of the tooth n°53 by the odontoma. Tooth n°13(\*) has a hooked apex and is surrounded by the right maxillary sinus.

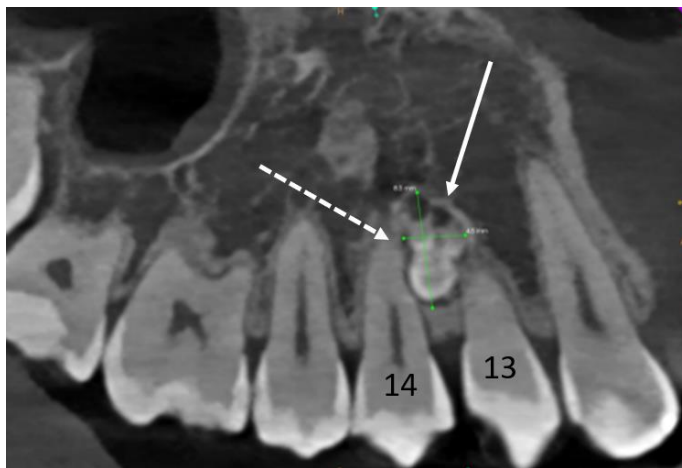


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**Fig. 4. Patient n°1. (Patient 14 years-old).** Carestream 9600 CBCT. 3D reconstruction view. Arrows: denticulo-type compound odontoma between tooth n°53 and tooth n°13.

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**Maxilla, particle-type in premolar area**



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**Fig. 5. Patient n°2. (Patient 20 years-old).** Carestream 9600 CBCT. Multi-reformatted sagittal view. Arrow: particle-type compound odontoma between the roots of teeth n°13 and n°14. Discontinuous arrow: discrete external resorption of the apical and mesial side of the root of the tooth n°14. Diastema between crowns of teeth n°13 and n°14.

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**Fig. 6. Patient n°2. (Patient 20 years-old).** Carestream 9600 CBCT. Axial view. Thin arrows: particle-type compound odontoma situated between roots of teeth n°13 and n°14. Thick arrow: thinning of the palatine cortical bone by the odontoma. Thin discontinuous arrow: discrete external resorption of the distal side of the root of the tooth n°13.

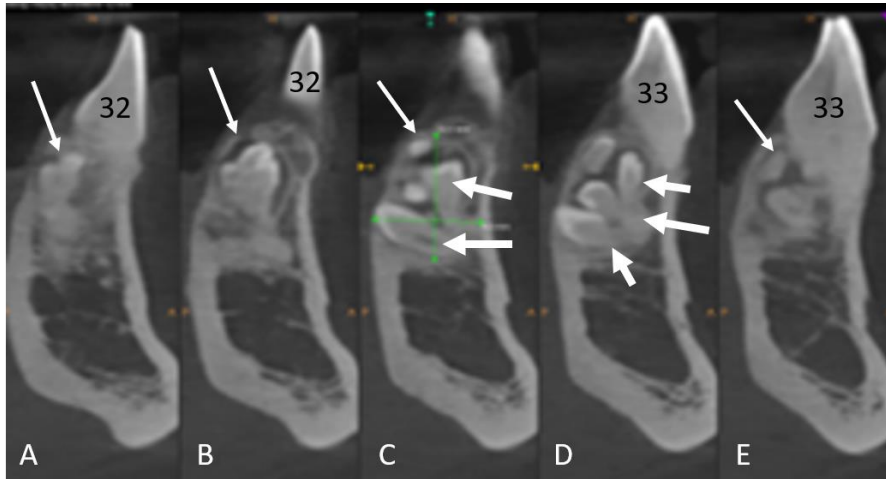


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**Fig. 7. Patient n°2. (Patient 20 years-old).** Carestream 9600 CBCT. Coronal view. Arrows: particle-type compound odontoma. Thick arrow: thinning of the palatine cortical bone by the odontoma.

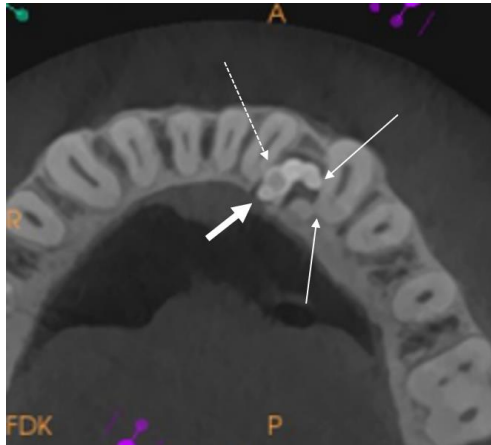
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**Mandible, denticulo-particle type in anterior area**



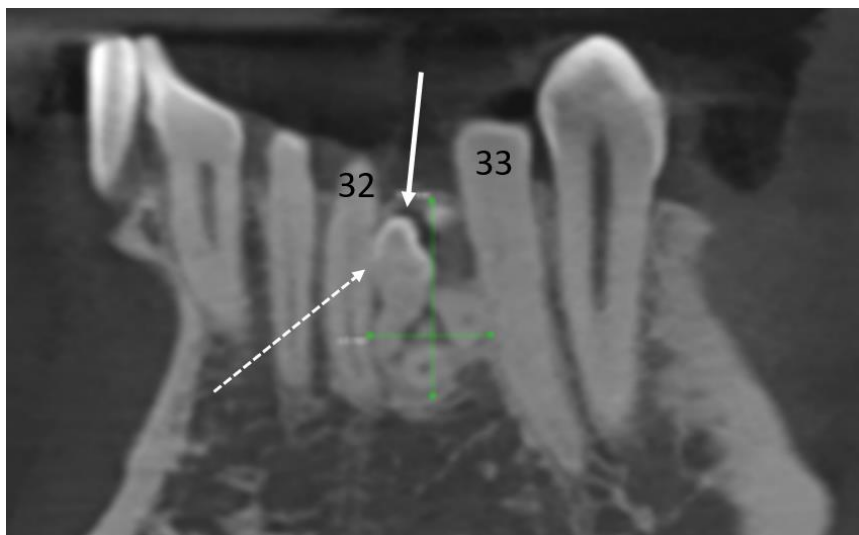
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**Fig. 8. Patient n°3. (Patient 39 years-old).** Carestream 9600 CBCT. Multi-reformatted coronal view. A-E: denticulo-particle type compound odontoma positioned between roots of teeth n°32 and n°33. A-C, E: Thin arrows: particle-type component. C, D: thick arrows: denticulo-type component.



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**Fig. 9. Patient n°3. (Patient 39 years-old).** Carestream 9600 CBCT. Axial view. Compound odontoma between teeth n°32 and n°33. Thin discontinuous arrow: close contact without external resorption between the odontoma and the distal side of the root of the tooth n°32. Thin arrow: close contact without external resorption between the odontoma and the mesial side of the root of the tooth n°33. Thick arrow: perforation of the lingual cortical bone by the odontoma.

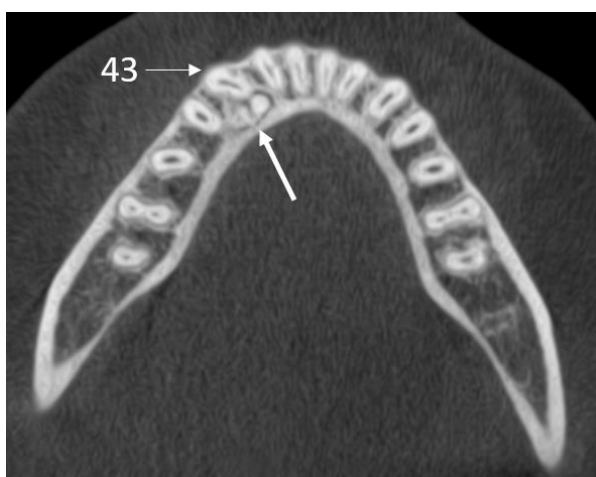


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**Fig. 10. Patient n°3. (Patient 39 years-old).** Carestream 9600 CBCT. Multi-reformatted sagittal view. Arrow: compound odontoma between teeth n°32 and 33. Discontinuous arrow: close contact between the odontoma (denticulo-particle type compound), and the distal side of the root of the tooth n°32.

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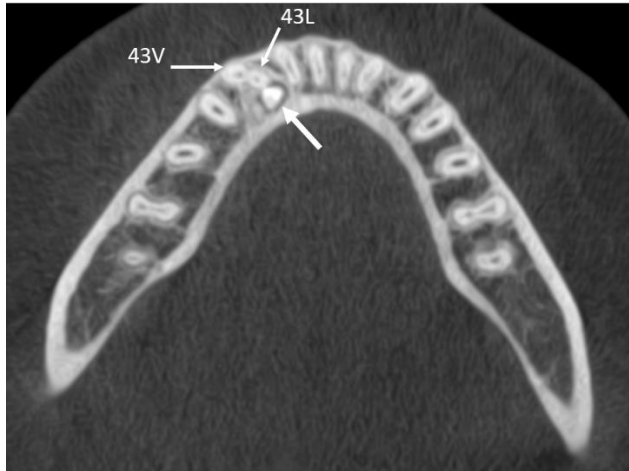
**Mandible, particle-type in anterior area, lingual to canine**



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**Fig. 11. Patient n°4. (Patient 14 years-old).** Planmeca 3D Mid. Axial view. Arrow: particle-type compound odontoma on the lingual and distal side of the root of the tooth n°43. Tooth n°43 is in rotation with its mesial face turned toward vestibular side.

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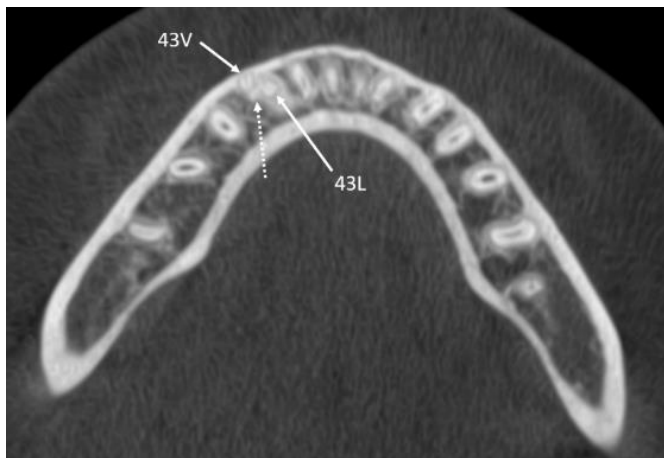
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**Fig. 12. Patient n°4. (Patient 14 years-old).** Planmeca 3D Mid. Axial view. Arrow: particle-type compound odontoma on the lingual side of the root of the tooth n°43. Tooth n°43 presents with two roots: vestibular and lingual. Close contact without external resorption between the odontoma and the lingual root of the tooth n°43.



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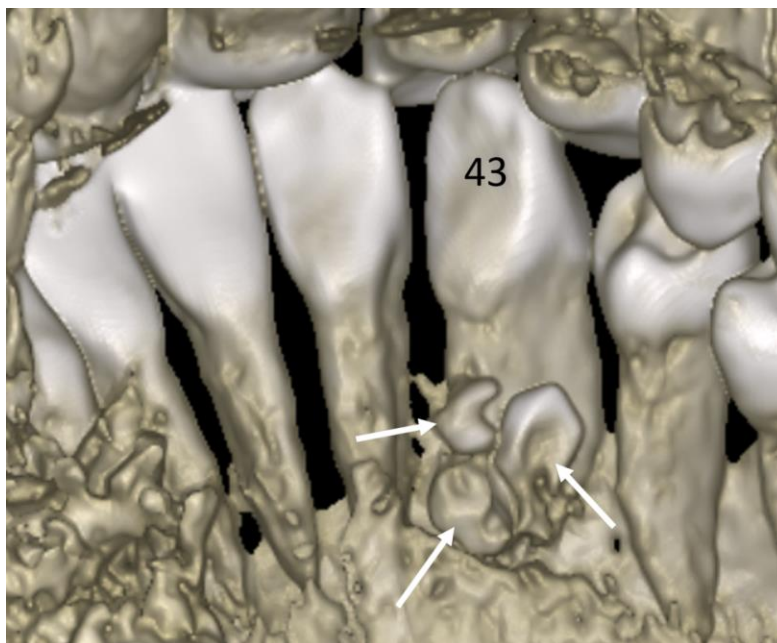
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**Fig. 13. Patient n°4. (Patient 14 years-old).** Planmeca 3D Mid. Axial view. Dotted arrow: particle-type odontoma between the lingual and the vestibular root of the tooth n°43.



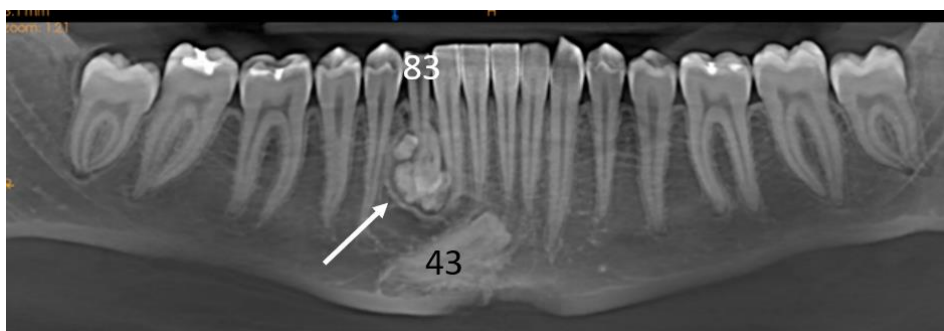


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**Fig. 14. Patient n°4. (Patient 14 years-old).** Planmeca 3D Mid. 3D reconstruction view. Arrows: particle-type compound odontoma on the lingual side of the root of the tooth n°43. Rotation of the tooth n°43 with its mesial side turned toward vestibular side. Diastema between the crowns of teeth n°42 and n°43.

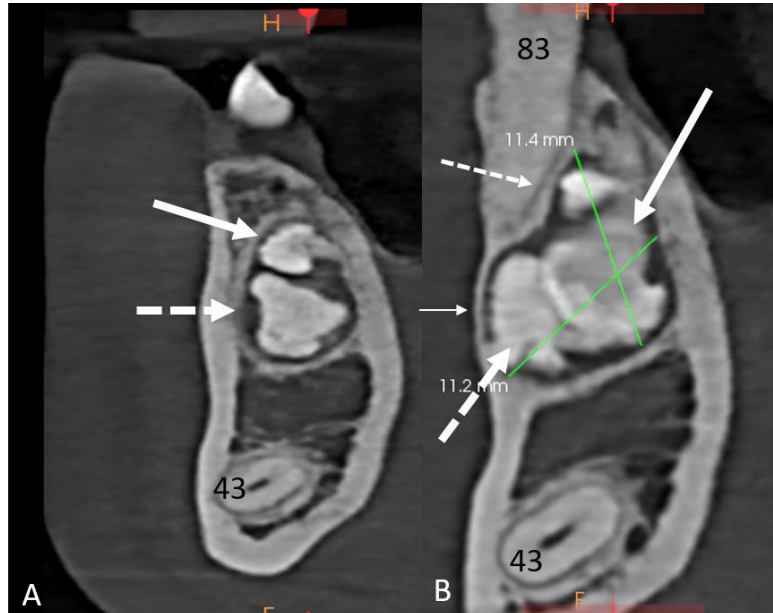
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#### Mandible, denticulo-amorphous type in anterior area



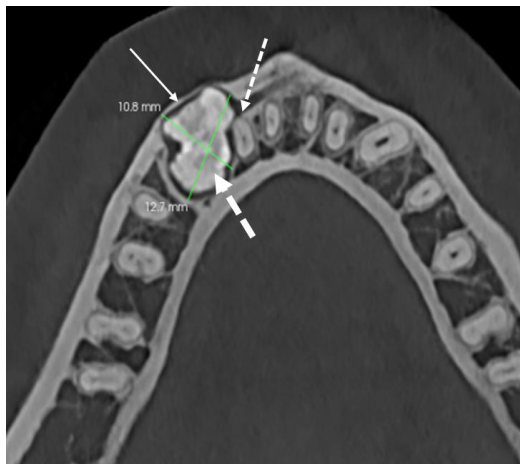
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**Fig. 15. Patient n°5. (Patient 19 years-old).** Carestream 9600 CBCT. Pseudopanoramic reformatted view. Arrow: denticulo-amorphous type odontoma between the tooth n°83 and impacted tooth n°43. The tooth n°43 is in transmigration under the apices of roots of teeth n°41 and n°31.



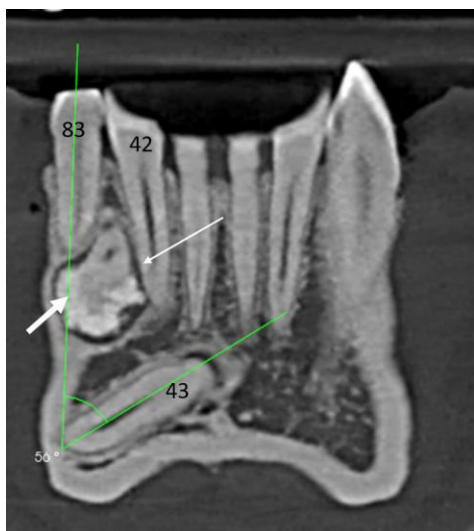
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**Fig. 16. Patient n°5. (Patient 19 years-old).** Carestream 9600 CBCT. Multi-reformatted coronal view through the odontoma. A. Arrow: denticule content of the odontoma. Discontinued arrow: amorphous content of the odontoma. Tooth n°43 is situated close to the basilar cortex of the mandible. B. Thick arrow: denticule content of the odontoma with malformed crown directed inferiorly. Discontinuous thick arrow: amorphous content of the odontoma. Thin arrow: bony expansion and thinning of the vestibular cortex. Thin discontinuous arrow: external resorption of the root of the tooth n°83 by the odontoma. Presence of thinning of the lingual cortical bone by the odontoma lingual to the tooth n°83.



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**Fig. 17. Patient n°5. (Patient 19 years-old).** Carestream 9600 CBCT. Axial view. Discontinuous arrow: amorphous content of the odontoma. Thin arrow: vestibular bony expansion and thinning of the vestibular cortex. Thin discontinuous arrow: odontoma surrounding the root of the tooth n°42 without its external root resorption.

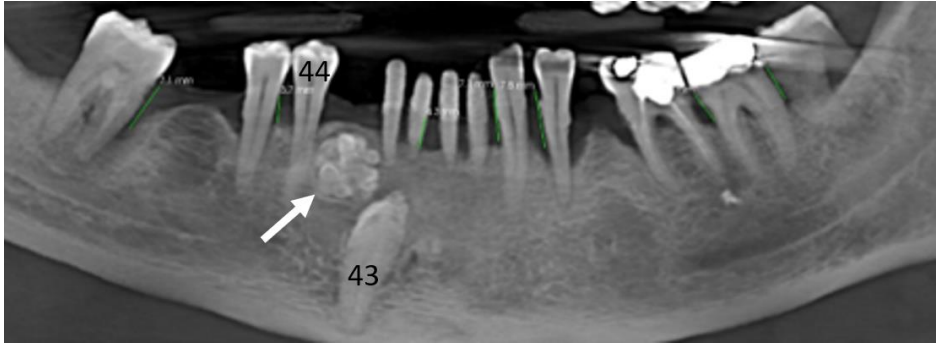


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**Fig. 18. Patient n°5. (Patient 19 years-old).** Carestream 9600 CBCT. Multi-reformatted coronal view. Thick arrow: denticulo-amorphous type odontoma between the roots of the teeth n°83 and n°42. Thin arrow: close relationship between the odontoma and the distal side of the root of the tooth n°42. Impacted tooth n°43 in transmigration, without ankylosis, and at a distance from the apex of the root of the tooth n°41.

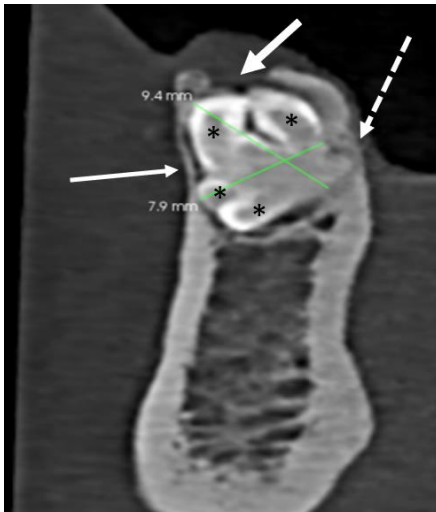
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**Mandible, denticulo-type in anterior area, impaction of canine**



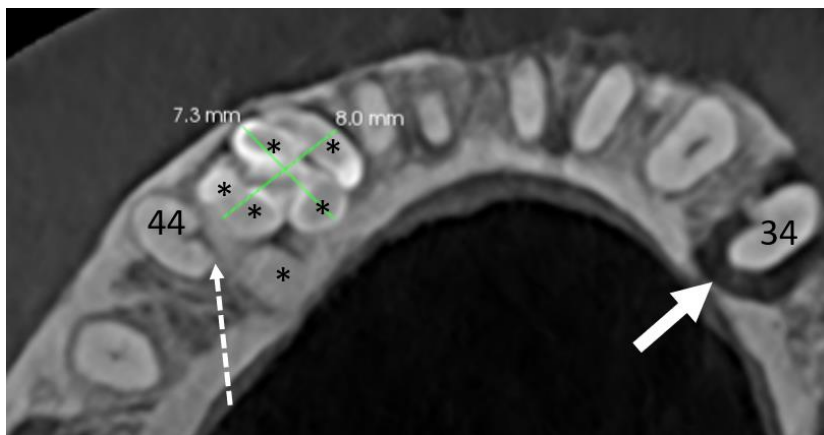
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**Fig. 19. Patient n°6. (Patient 64 years-old).** Carestream 9600 CBCT. Pseudopanoramic reformatted view. Arrow: Denticulo-type odontoma between the roots of the teeth n°44 and n°42. Tooth n°43 impacted and vertical without transmigration.



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**Fig. 20. Patient n°6. (Patient 64 years-old).** Carestream 9600 CBCT. Multi-reformatted coronal view. Thin arrow: thinning of the vestibular cortical bone by the odontoma. Discontinuous arrow: thinning of the lingual cortical bone by the odontoma. Thick arrow: perforation of the alveolar bone, and pre-erupted state of the odontoma.

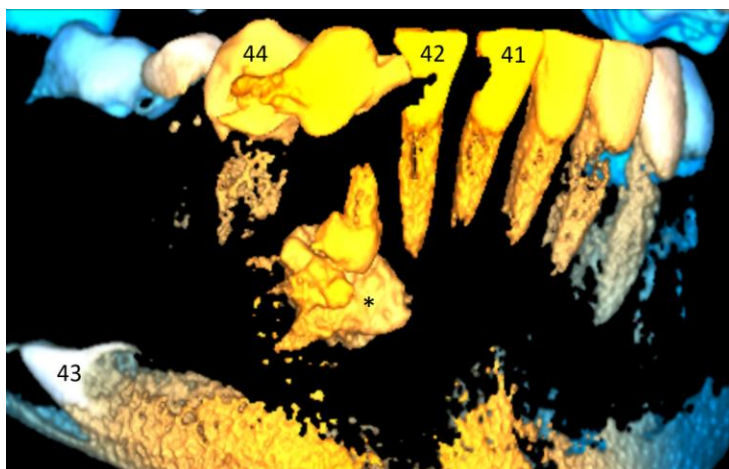


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**Fig. 21. Patient n°6. (Patient 64 years-old).** Carestream 9600 CBCT. Axial view. Denticulo-type odontoma with multiple denticles (\*). Discontinuous arrow: external resorption of the mesial side of the tooth n°44 by the odontoma. Thick arrow: advanced periodontitis around the tooth n°34.

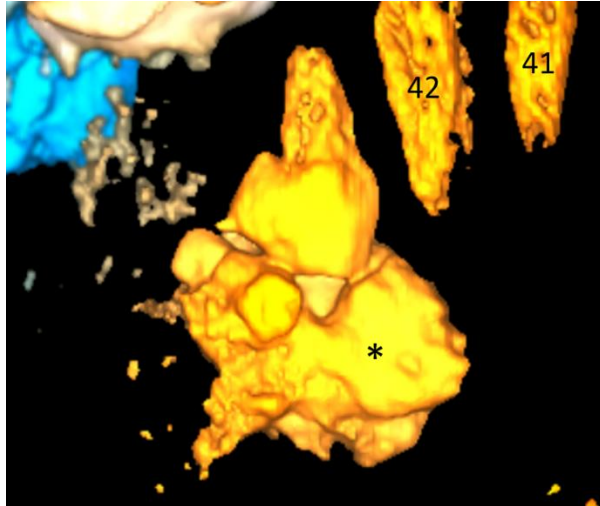
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**Mandible, denticulo-amorphous type in anterior area, transmigration of canine**



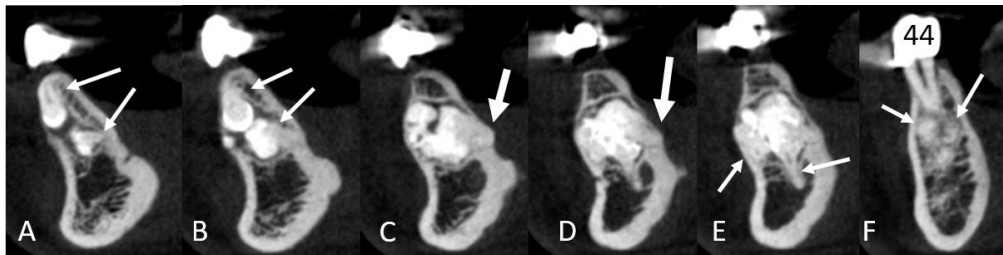
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**Fig. 22. Patient n°7. (Patient 23 years-old).** Planmeca 3D mid. 3D reconstruction right lateral view of the mandible with threshold selecting dental tissue. Denticulo-amorphous type odontoma (\*) between the teeth n°42 and n°44. Tooth n°43 in transmigration along the basilar cortical bone, and with the crown directed toward posterior. Tooth n°43 is replaced on the dental arch by the metallic prosthetic element.



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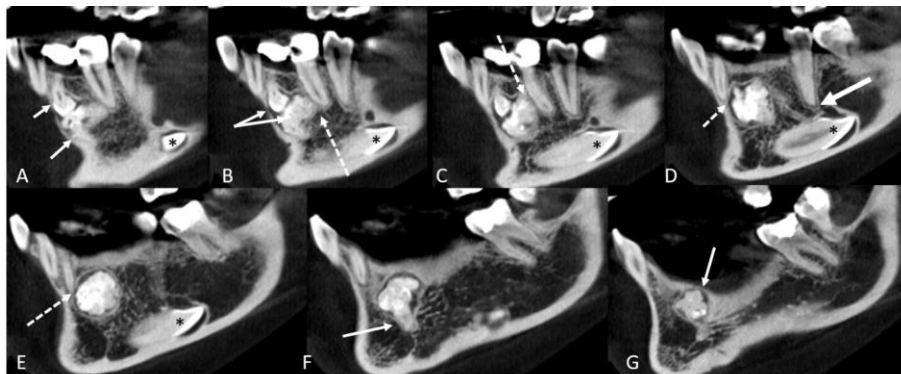
**Fig. 23. Patient n°7. (Patient 23 years-old).** Planmeca 3D mid. 3D reconstruction right lateral view of the mandible. Denticulo-amorphous type odontoma (\*) with one of the denticles in inverted position with the crown directed inferiorly.



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**Fig. 24. Patient n°7. (Patient 23 years-old).** Planmeca 3D mid. A-F: sagittal view. A, B. Arrows: inverted and horizontal denticule. C, D. Thick arrow: bone expansion of the odontoma to the lingual side. E. Thinning of the vestibular cortical bone by the odontoma, and extension of the odontoma inferiorly. F. Close relationship between the odontoma and the apex of the root of the tooth n°44.





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**Fig. 25. Patient n°7. (Patient 23 years-old).** Planmeca 3D mid. A-G: parasagittal multi-reformatted view from vestibular (A) to lingual (G) side of the right mandible. (\*) The tooth n°43 in transmigration along the basilar cortical bone. A, B. Arrows: odontoma. B, C. Discontinuous arrow: close relationship between the root of the tooth n°44 and the odontoma, and without external resorption. D, E. Discontinuous arrow: close relationship between the root of the tooth n°42 and the odontoma. D. Thick arrow: close relationship between follicular sac of the tooth n°43 and the apex of the tooth n°45. E. Presence of massive enamel component of the odontoma. F. Arrow: inferior extension of the odontoma. G. Arrow: amorphous component of the odontoma.

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### Clinical cases presentation for complex odontoma

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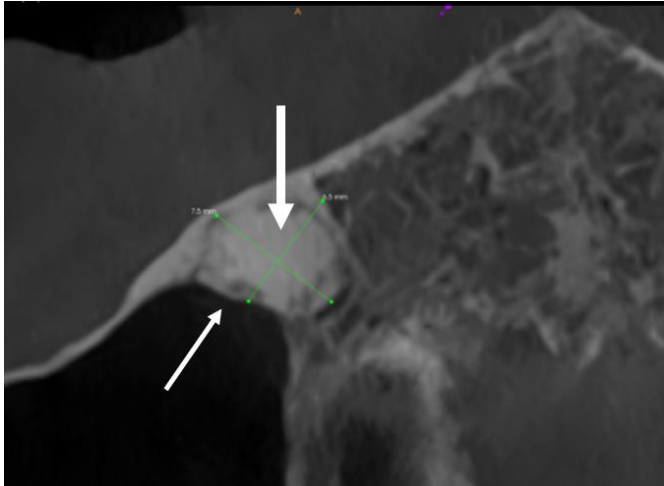
#### Anterior maxilla



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**Fig. 26. Patient n°8. (Patient 64 years-old).** Carestream 9600 CBCT. Multi-reformatted sagittal view. Complex odontoma in the palatine process of the right maxilla. The odontoma is situated apical to the tooth n°13. Partial extension of the complex odontoma in right maxillary sinus (partial extragnathic type).

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**Fig. 27. Patient n°8. (Patient 64 years-old).** Carestream 9600 CBCT. Axial view. Arrow: complex odontoma. Thin arrow: extension of the complex odontoma in right maxillary sinus.

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**Anterior mandible**



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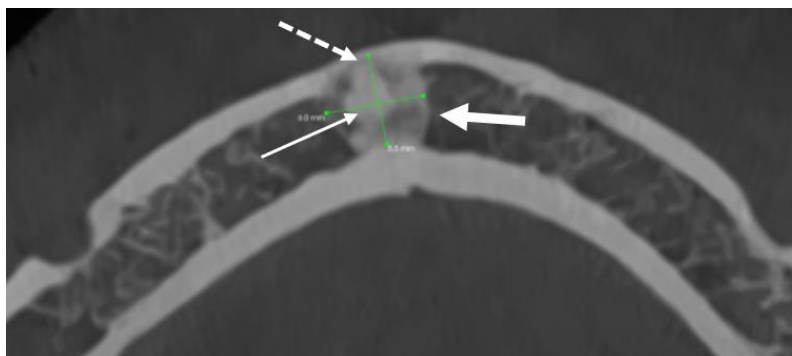
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**Fig. 28. Patient n°9. (Patient 43 years-old).** Carestream 9600 CBCT. Multi-reformatted coronal view. Arrow: complex odontoma with close relationship with the apices of the teeth n°41, and n°42.





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**Fig. 29. Patient n°9. (Patient 43 years-old).** Carestream 9600 CBCT. Axial view. Thick arrow: complex odontoma between the lingual and vestibular cortical bone in the midsagittal mandibular area. Thin arrow: amorphous component of the complex odontoma. Discontinuous arrow: thinning of the vestibular bone by the odontoma.

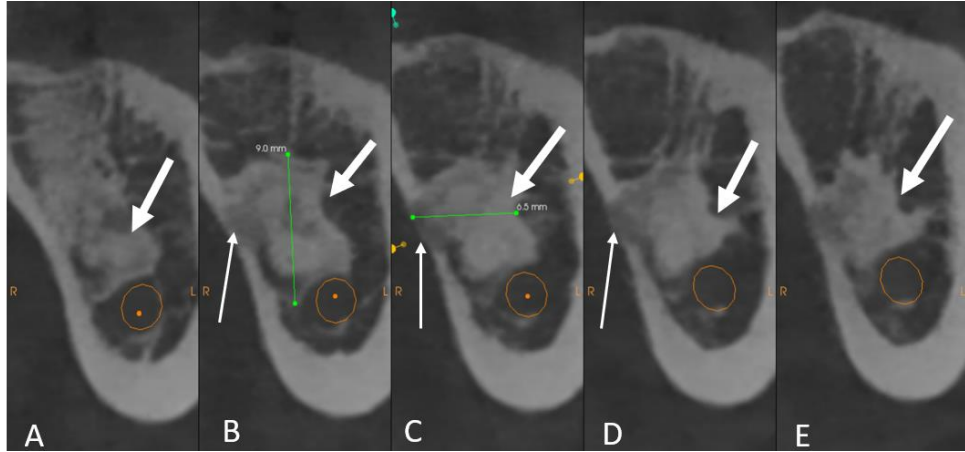
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#### Posterior mandible



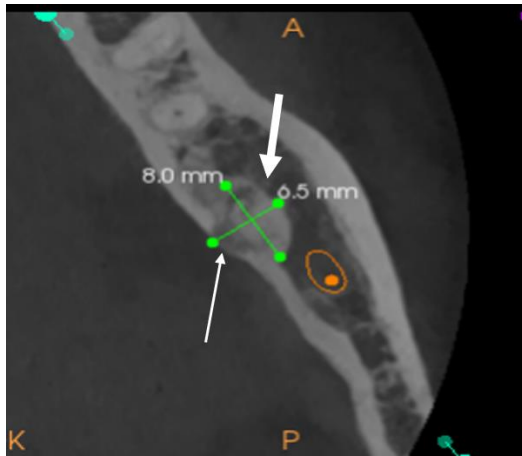
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**Fig. 30. Patient n°10. (Patient 27 years-old).** Carestream 9600 CBCT. Multi-reformatted sagittal view. Thick arrow: complex odontoma close to the apex of the root of the tooth n°37. Thin arrow: external resorption of the root of the tooth n°37 by the odontoma.



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**Fig. 31. Patient n°10. (Patient 27 years-old).** Carestream 9600 CBCT. Multi-reformatted coronal view. A-E. Thick arrow: intra-osseous complex odontoma superior to the left inferior alveolar nerve canal (segmented with orange circle). B-D. Thin arrow: thinning of the vestibular cortical bone by the odontoma.



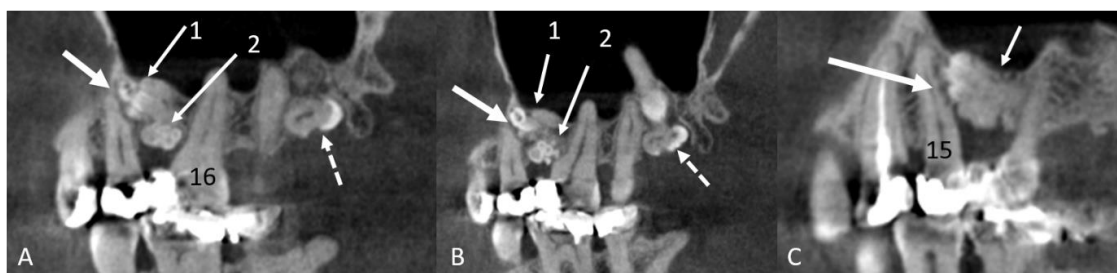
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**Fig. 32. Patient n°10. (Patient 27 years-old).** Carestream 9600 CBCT. Axial view. Thick arrow: complex odontoma positioned close to the lingual side. Thin arrow: thinning of the lingual cortical bone by the odontoma.

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**Clinical cases presentation in specific situations**

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**Multiple compound odontoma**

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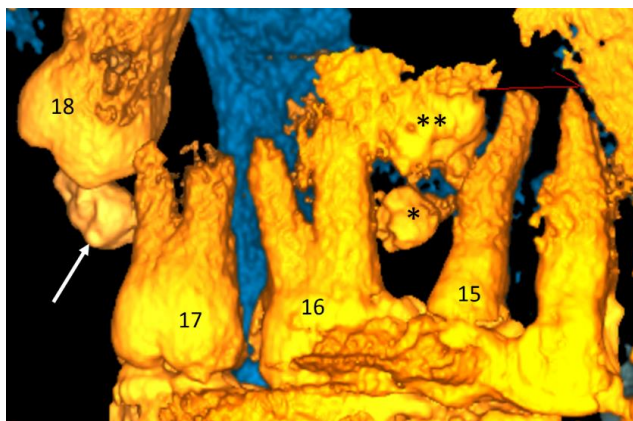
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**Fig. 33. Patient n°11. (Patient 43 years-old).** Planmeca 3D Mid. Sagittal view of the right maxilla. A, B. 1. Upper situated denticulo-type compound odontoma between the teeth n°15 and n°16. 2. Lower situated denticulo-type compound odontoma between the teeth n°15 and n°16. Thick arrow: external resorption of the distal side of the tooth n°15. Discontinuous arrow: denticulo-type compound odontoma distal to the tooth n°17 in pre-erupted state. B. Discontinuous arrow: denticulo-type compound odontoma distal to the tooth n°17 in erupted state, and presence of impacted tooth n°18 with its root surrounded by the right maxillary sinus. C. Upper denticulo-type compound odontoma at the floor of the right maxillary sinus. Thick arrow: external resorption of the distal side of the tooth n°15 by the upper situated odontoma.



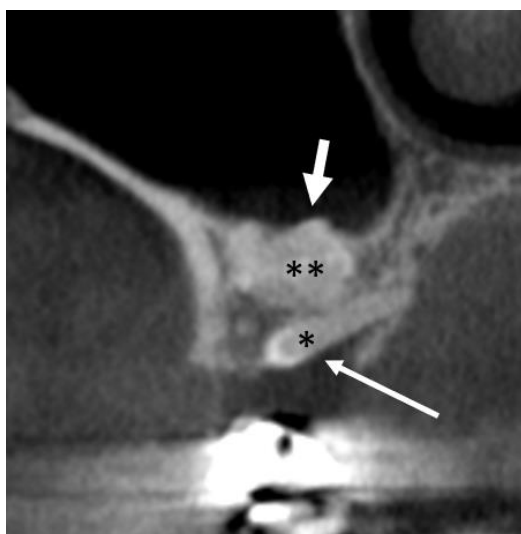
**Fig. 34. Patient n°11. (Patient 43 years-old).** Planmeca 3D Mid. Axial view. A. Arrow: lower situated denticulo-type compound odontoma between the teeth n°15 and n°16. Discontinuous arrow: external resorption of the mesio-vestibular root of the tooth n°16 by the lower situated denticulo-type compound odontoma. Thick arrow: denticulo-type compound odontoma distal and palatine to the tooth n°17, and in pre-erupted state. B. Arrow: Upper situated denticulo-type compound odontoma between the teeth n°15 and n°16. Discontinuous arrow: external resorption of the distal side of the root of the tooth n°15 by the upper situated denticulo-type compound odontoma. Thick arrow: denticulo-type compound odontoma distal and palatine to the tooth n°17, and palatine to the crown of the tooth n°18. C. Arrow: upper situated denticulo-type compound odontoma with close relationship with the right maxillary sinus.

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**Fig. 35. Patient n°11. (Patient 43 years-old).** Planmeca 3D Mid. 3D reconstruction view of the right lateral maxilla. (\*) lower situated denticulo-type compound odontoma, (\*\*) upper situated denticulo-type compound odontoma. Arrow: denticulo-type compound odontoma distal to the roots of the tooth n°17, and apical to the crown of the tooth n°18.



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**Fig. 36. Patient n°11. (Patient 43 years-old).** Planmeca 3D Mid. Coronal view. (\*) lower situated denticulo-type compound odontoma, (\*\*) upper situated denticulo-type compound odontoma. Arrow: lower situated denticulo-type compound odontoma is in pre-eruptive state. Thick arrow: (\*\*) upper situated denticulo-type compound odontoma at the floor of the right maxillary sinus.

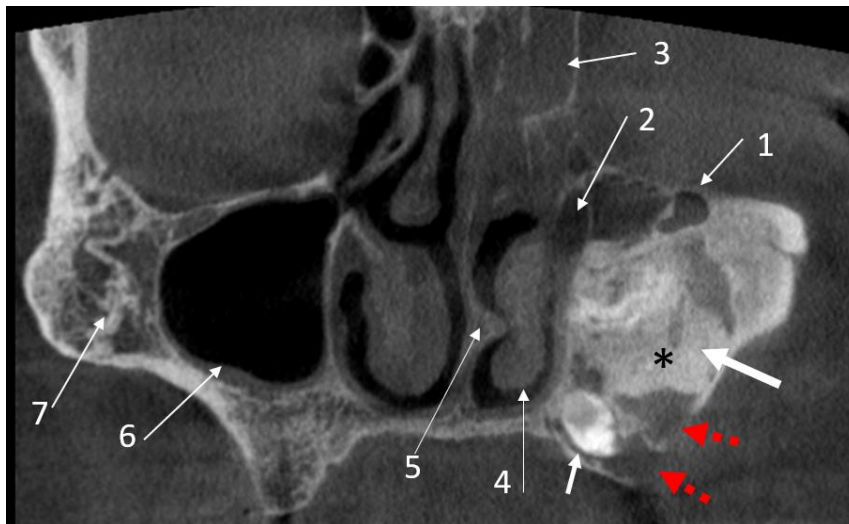
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### Double extragnathic complex odontoma



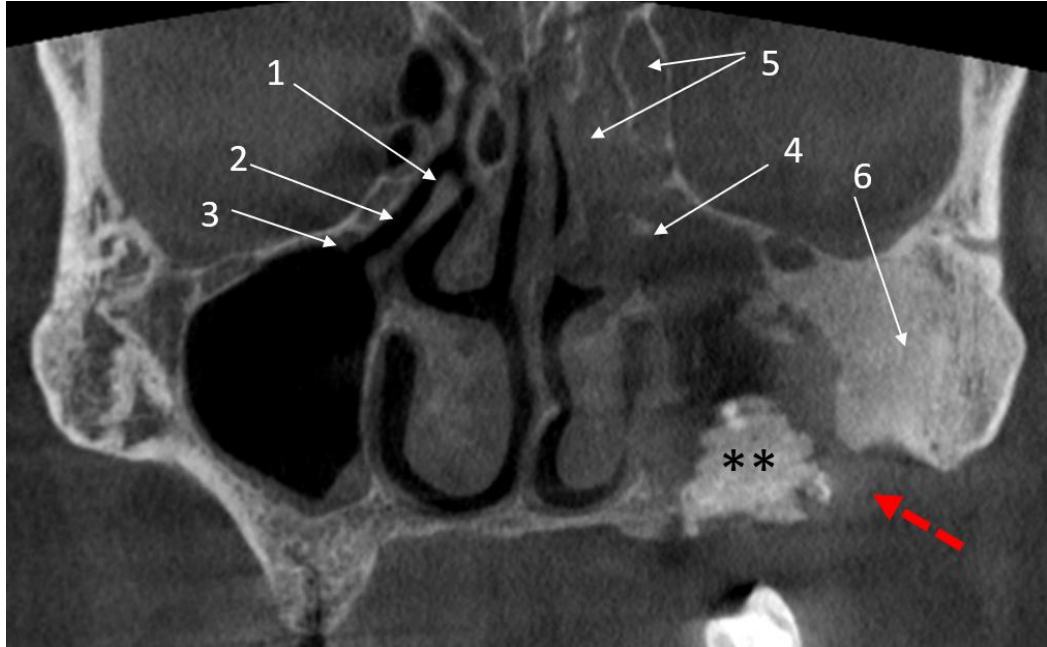
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**Fig. 37. Patient n°12. (Patient 69 years-old).** Planmeca 3D Mid. Coronal view of the anterior maxillary sinus. (\*) Anterior complex odontoma inside the left maxillary sinus. Arrow: amorphous tissue component of the complex odontoma. Discontinuous arrow: denticule tissue component of the complex odontoma.



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451 **Fig. 38. Patient n°12. (Patient 69 years-old).** Planmeca 3D Mid. Coronal  
452 view of the midsection of the anterior complex odontoma (\*). Thick arrow:  
453 amorphous tissue component of the complex odontoma. Arrow: denticule  
454 tissue component of the complex odontoma in the palatine process of the  
455 left maxilla. Red arrows: perforations of the lateral wall of the left maxilla by  
456 the expansion and eruption of the odontoma. 1. Left suborbital nerve canal  
457 surrounded by the complex odontoma. 2. Close relationship between  
458 complex odontoma and the left nasolacrimal duct. 3. Thickening of the  
459 mucosa around the left middle turbinate and in the left ethmoid sinus cells. 4.  
460 Paradoxical left inferior turbinate. 5. Bone spur from nasal septum directed to-  
461 ward left, and in contact with the left inferior turbinate. 6. Discrete thickening  
462 of the mucosa in the right maxillary sinus. 7. Right zygomatico-maxillary  
463 suture.

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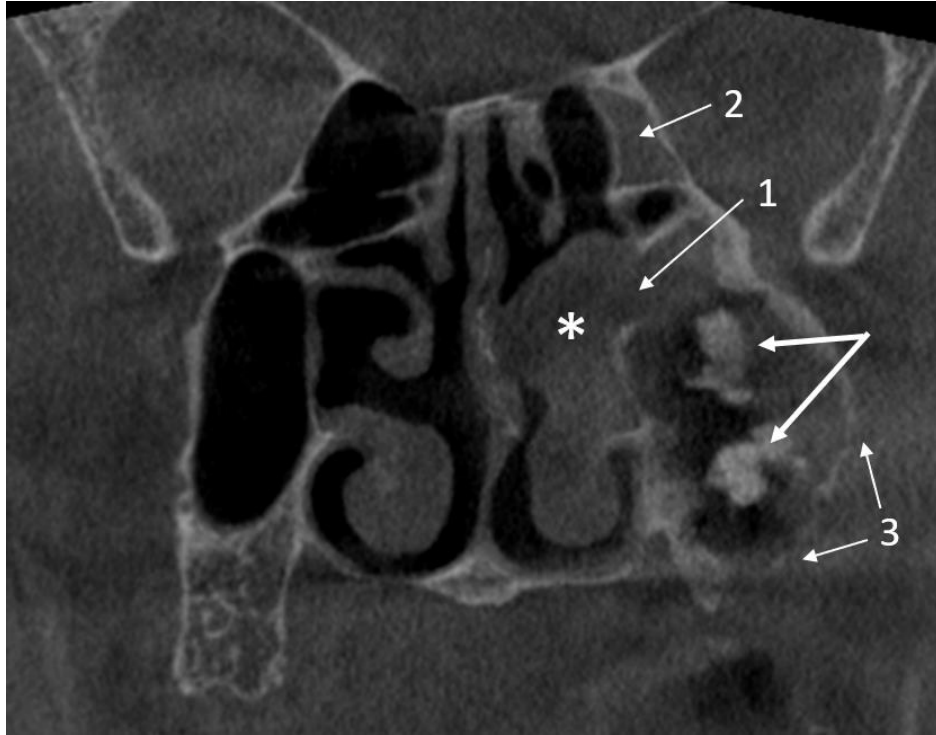
**Fig. 39. Patient n°12. (Patient 69 years-old).** Planmeca 3D Mid. Coronal view of the intermediate area between anterior and posterior complex odontoma (\*\*). Red discontinuous arrow: perforation at the level of the left alveolar bone, and presence of major oro-sinusal fistula. 1. Right uncinata process. 2. Right infundibulum. 3. Right ostium. 4. Absence of left uncinata process, of left infundibulum, and of left ostium. 5. Thickening of the mucosa around the left middle turbinate and in the left ethmoid sinus cells. 6. Hyperostosis of the left zygomaticomaxillary process. Left suborbital nerve canal surrounded by the complex odontoma.





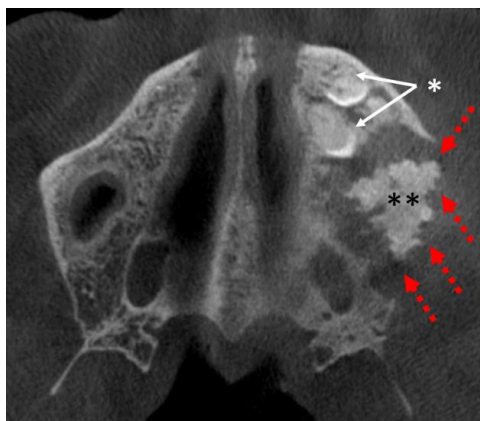
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**Fig. 40. Patient n°12. (Patient 69 years-old).** Planmeca 3D Mid. Coronal view of the midsection of the posterior complex odontoma (\*\*). Red discontinuous arrow: perforation of the left alveolar bone, and the complex odontoma in eruptive state. Arrow: posterior complex odontoma (\*\*) with amorphous tissue content. 1. Thickening and internal erosion of the left lateral wall of the left maxillary sinus. 2. Thickening of the floor of the left orbit. 3. Thickening of the nasal wall of the left maxillary sinus. 4. Thickening of the mucosa and in the posterior cells of the left ethmoid sinus. 5. Thickening of the mucosa around the left middle turbinate. 6. Transverse expansion of the maxillary sinus due to the presence of the complex odontoma. 7. Decreasing in transversal dimension of the left nasal fossa.



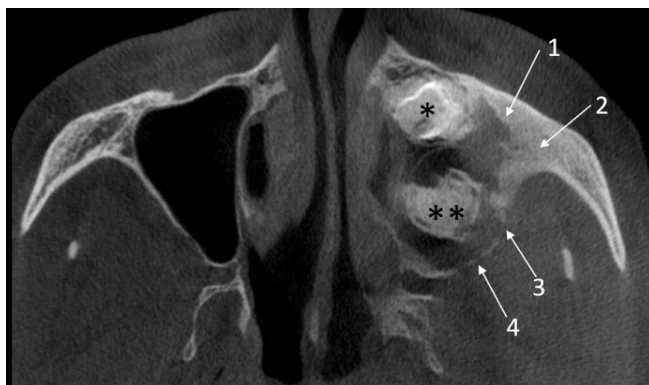
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**Fig. 41. Patient n°12. (Patient 69 years-old).** Planmeca 3D Mid. Coronal view of the posterior area of the posterior complex odontoma. Arrows: amorphous tissue belonging to the posterior complex odontoma. 1. Upper nasal wall missing on the left maxillary sinus. (\*) thickening of the mucosa around the left middle turbinate. 2. Thickening of the mucosa in the posterior cells of the left ethmoid sinus. 3. Thinning of the lateral wall of the left maxillary sinus.



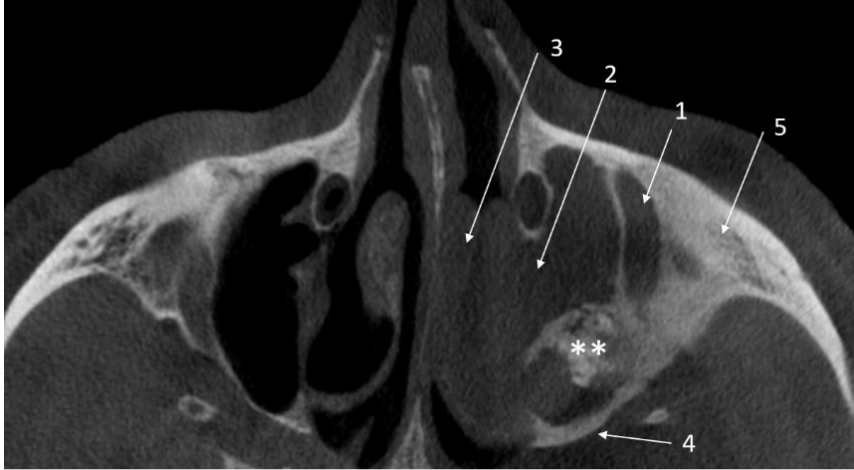
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**Fig. 42. Patient n°12. (Patient 69 years-old).** Planmeca 3D Mid. Axial view of complex odontoma at the level of the floor of the left maxillary sinus. (\*) Denticles component of the anterior complex odontoma. (\*\*) Amorphous component of the posterior complex odontoma. Red discontinuous arrows: absence of left lateral wall of the left maxillary sinus with the complex odontoma in eruptive state.



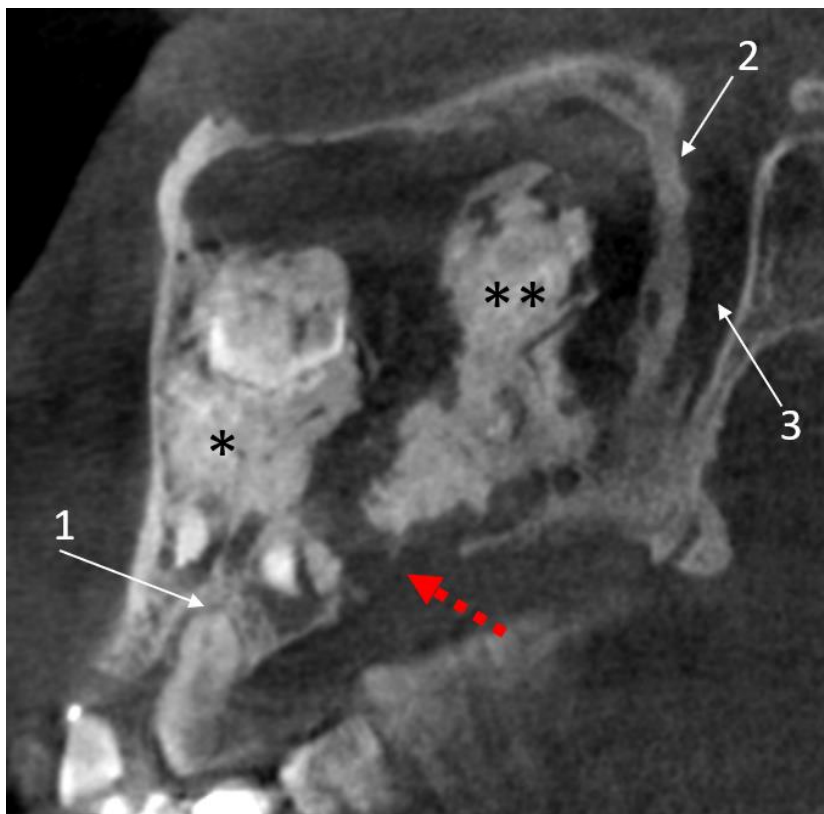
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**Fig. 43. Patient n°12. (Patient 69 years-old).** Planmeca 3D Mid. Axial view at the midsection of the anterior (\*) and posterior (\*\*) complex odontoma. Amorphous and denticle content of the anterior complex odontoma (\*). Amorphous only content of the posterior complex odontoma (\*\*). 1. Erosion of the left zygomaticomaxillary process. 2. Hyperostosis of the left zygomaticomaxillary process.



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**Fig. 44. Patient n°12. (Patient 69 years-old).** Planmeca 3D Mid. Axial view at the upper level of the complex odontoma. (\*\*) Posterior complex odontoma. 1. Left suborbital nerve canal with posterior contact with the posterior complex odontoma (\*\*). 2. Absence of the nasal wall of the left maxillary sinus. 3. Thickening of the mucosa of the left middle turbinate, and obstruction of the left nasal fossa. 4. Hyperostosis of the left lateral wall of the left maxillary sinus. 5. Hyperostosis of the left zygomaticomaxillary process.



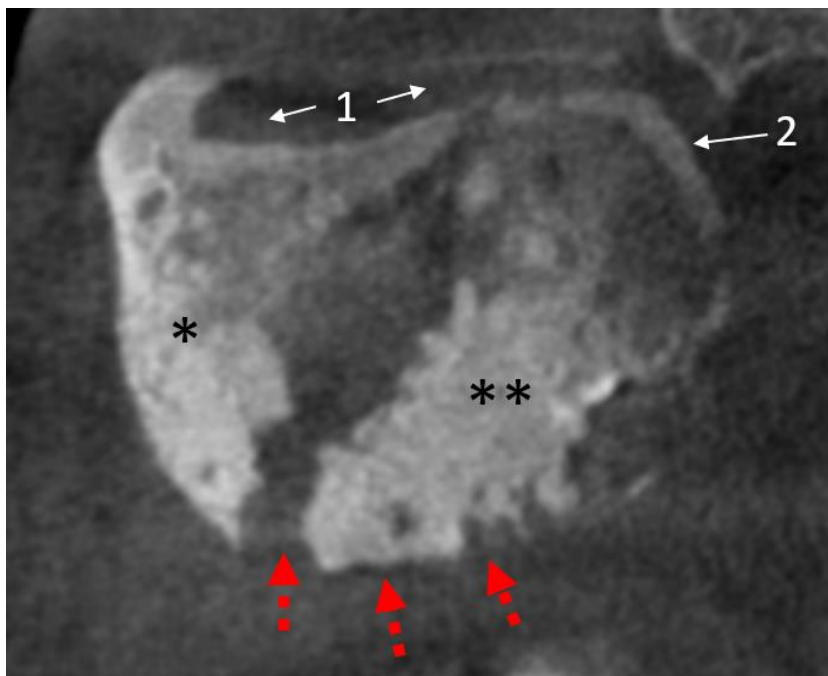
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**Fig. 45. Patient n°12. (Patient 69 years-old).** Planmeca 3D Mid. Sagittal view close to the nasal wall of the left maxillary sinus. Anterior (\*) and posterior (\*\*) complex odontoma. Red discontinuous arrow: perforation of the palatine bone and oro-antral communication. 1. External resorption of the tooth n° 15 by the anterior complex odontoma. 2. Hyperostosis of the posterior wall of the left maxillary sinus. 3. Left great palatine canal.



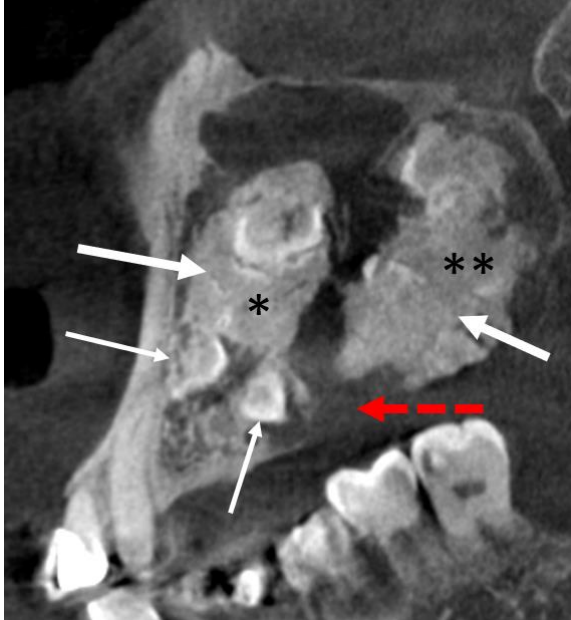
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**Fig. 46. Patient n°12. (Patient 69 years-old).** Planmeca 3D Mid. Sagittal view through the midline of both odontoma. (\*) Anterior complex odontoma. (\*\*) Posterior complex odontoma. Red discontinuous arrows: perforation of the alveolar bone of the left maxilla, and posterior complex odontoma in eruptive state. 1. Left suborbital nerve foramen and canal surrounded by the anterior complex odontoma. 2. Hyperostosis of the floor of the left orbit. 3. P-Left pterygopalatine fossa.



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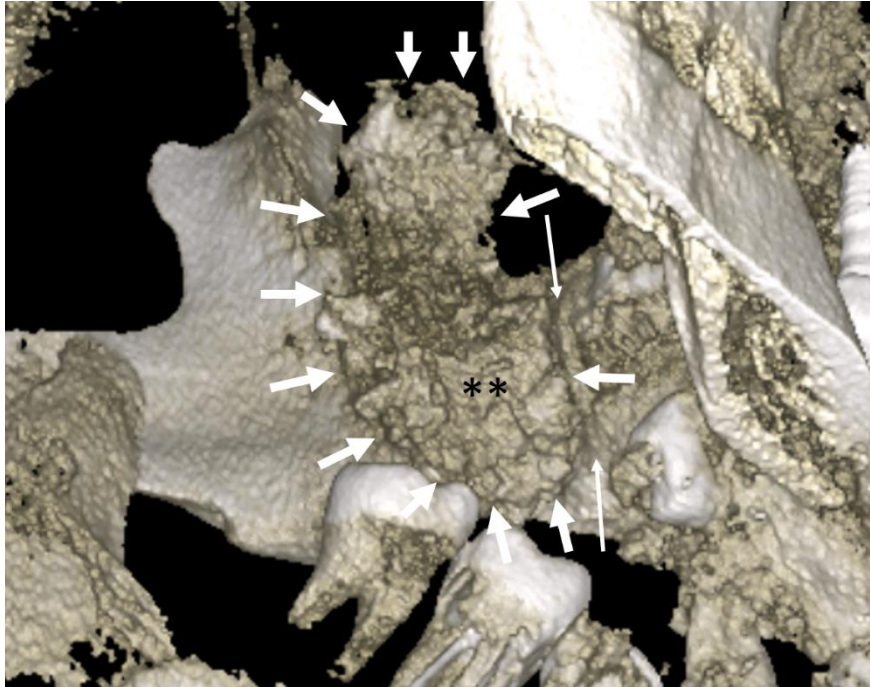
**Fig. 47. Patient n°12. (Patient 69 years-old).** Planmeca 3D Mid. Sagittal view through the lateral wall of the left maxillary sinus. (\*) Anterior complex odontoma. (\*\*) Posterior complex odontoma. Red discontinuous arrows: perforation of the lateral wall of the left maxillary sinus, and posterior complex odontoma in eruptive state. 1. Left suborbital nerve canal surrounded by hyperostotic bone. 2. Hyperostosis of the posterior wall of the left maxillary sinus.



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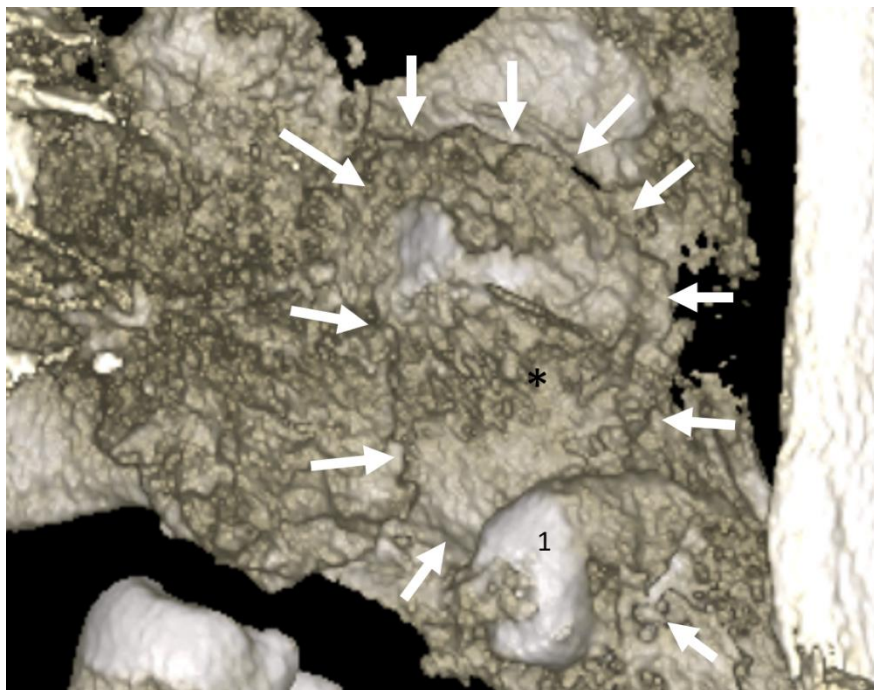
**Fig. 48. Patient n°12. (Patient 69 years-old).** Planmeca 3D Mid. Multi-reformatted sagittal view through both the anterior and posterior complex odontoma. Anterior complex odontoma (\*) and posterior complex odontoma (\*). Red discontinuous arrow: perforation of the alveolar bone of the left maxilla, and left oro-antral communication. Thick arrows: amorphous content of the complex odontoma. Thin arrows: denticule content of the complex odontoma.





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**Fig. 49. Patient n°12. (Patient 69 years-old).** Planmeca 3D Mid. 3D reconstruction of the posterior complex odontoma (\*\*), with its limits underlined with thick arrows. Thin arrows: border between both odontomas.



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566 **Fig. 50. Patient n°12. (Patient 69 years-old).** Planmeca 3D Mid. 3D  
567 reconstruction of the anterior complex odontoma (\*) with its limits underlined  
568 with thick arrows. 1. Denticule component of the complex odontoma.  
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## Discussion

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572 Odontomas are the most common benign odontogenic tumours with a  
573 histologically high degree of differentiation and an excellent biological behaviour.  
574 They may occur in two forms: a complex odontoma or a compound odontoma [24].  
575 A complex odontoma looks like an irregular and disorganized mass of tooth tissue  
576 and occurs mainly in the premolar-molar region of the upper and lower jaw. On the  
577 other hand, a compound odontoma is a conglomerate of numerous small fragments.  
578 Many of these fragments are real miniature teeth in which a crown and a root,  
579 covered by enamel and cementum, can be clearly distinguished. The number of  
580 these tooth-like configurations can vary from a few individuals to several hundred  
581 [25]. In this discussion, the radiological features of odontomas will firstly be  
582 discussed, followed by the difficulties of diagnosis and why a CBCT classification  
583 matrix is of great value. Lastly, the role of CBCT in treatment and treatment  
584 planning will be discussed.

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## **Radiologic features**

Radiologically, this odontogenic tumour is initially lucent, but with time, it develops small calcifications, which eventually coalesce to form a radio-dense lesion with a lucent rim [26]. Compound odontomas usually contain a radio-opaque mass with irregular margins and tooth-like structure. Compound odontomas present radio-lucid peripheral borders, whereas complex odontomas exhibit unique radio-opacity, sometimes surrounded by a thin radiolucent area [1, 25, 27]. According to the degree of odontoma calcification, three stages of development can be identified: 1) radio-lucid stage lacking calcification of dental tissues, 2) stage with partial calcifications, and 3) radio-opaque stage surrounded by a radio-lucid halo [25, 28]. Orthopantomogram, periapical, and occlusal radiographs are conventional dental radiography techniques which are commonly used for diagnostic purpose. But, CBCT provides several advantages regarding diagnostic and treatment planning because it provides a three-dimensional image of the structural relationships. Images in three planes of sections (axial, sagittal, coronal) make evaluation of anatomical structures more accurate, and 3D reconstruction can play a critical role in diagnosis and surgical planning [1, 2]. Moreover, it provides the determination of the tumour size, density, presence of root resorption, cortical bone expansion, and perforation, in addition to the relationship with adjacent anatomic structures such as the inferior alveolar nerve and adjacent teeth [29]. Both the extent of the lesion and its effects on adjacent structures are better delineated with CBCT. Additionally, the presence of calcifications and cortical perforation are more visible on CBCT versus a panoramic image [2].

## **Diagnosis**

Problems concerning the diagnosis are related to the site (multiple or unique), size and location of the odontoma. The location can be intraosseous, extraosseous (partially or completely) and rarely in soft tissues. [1, 2, 10-12, 15-22] Furthermore, extension of the lesion can be bony expansion, thinning or perforation of the cortical bone. These extensions are better visible on CBCT [4, 6, 30]. Lastly, the relationship between the odontoma and adjacent teeth and adjacent structures are of importance for the diagnosis [2, 30]. Since CBCT offers a precise position and accurate diagnosis of complex and compound odontomas this research constructed a classification matrix for complex and compound odontomas [1, 4, 6].

## **Classification matrix**

This open classification matrix for compound and complex odontomas on Table 1 contains 102 boxes. The descriptions for our classification matrix were composed of: 1) Giant odontoma; 2) Quantity; 3) Location within the arch; 4) Location in relation with adjacent teeth; 5) Maxilla location; 6) Mandible location; 7) Type; and 8) Complications. According to our clinical findings (Figures 20, 33, 34, 36) we added two new sub-classifications for "location within in arch": Pre-erupted state

631 (perforation of alveolar bone on the dental arch), and partially extragnathic position  
632 of odontoma. The “location in relation with adjacent definitive teeth” was also  
633 added, based on the same scheme as the location in relation with adjacent deciduous  
634 teeth from Teruhisa et al. [23]. Furthermore, we added 7 new subclassifications for  
635 description of the position of the odontoma in relation with the definitive tooth. We  
636 added mandible and maxilla location separated into anterior, premolar, and molar  
637 area that were not present in previous classifications. We added the denticulo-  
638 amorphous type according to our clinical findings (Figures 15, 18, 22-25, 42, 43, 45-  
639 48, 50). Finally, we added 12 new sub-classifications on complications related to  
640 odontomas.

641 The content of the presented matrix is based on descriptions of odontomas in open-  
642 access literature, from authors’ interpretation of figures and illustrations in the open-  
643 access selected articles and from own presented cases. The 36 boxes were already  
644 illustrated by 23 figures available in open-access literature in Pubmed [7, 10-22].  
645 This article freely provided 50 figures. The open access figures from literature and  
646 from this research illustrated 23 boxes. With this pictorial review, this research was  
647 able to illustrate itself 30 boxes. In the future, other authors could complete 30  
648 empty boxes, add more types in the same classification or add new  
649 (sub)classifications below or inside the existing ones presented in this research.

650 Analogically, new research could be published in open-access.

651 Therefore, this pictorial review was able to freely provide the readership with a more  
652 complete description of complex odontomas, compound odontomas, multiple  
653 compound odontomas and double extragnathic complex odontomas on CBCT data  
654 in comparison to earlier published studies.

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### **Treatment and treatment planning**

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658 After surgical removal of odontoma, there is no tendency of recurrence.  
659 Nevertheless, it is advisable to always have the surgical specimen examined  
660 anatomically because of the rare possibility of an odonto-ameloblastoma. This rare  
661 lesion combines the characteristics of an odontoma with those of an ameloblastoma.  
662 Treatment is identical to that of an ameloblastoma. According to WHO (2017),  
663 odonto-ameloblastoma no longer forms a separate entity but is included in  
664 ameloblastoma.

665 When odontomas extend beyond the alveolar process into the fascial planes, nasal  
666 fossae, paranasal sinuses, and orbits, a CBCT can more precisely demonstrate the  
667 extent and boundaries of the lesions. For example, a compound odontoma can cause  
668 a slight bone expansion that is noticeably different from the more significant bone  
669 expansion caused by complex odontoma [31]. Moreover, CBCT imaging allows a  
670 3D visualization that, besides showing the association between lesions, also  
671 demonstrates the margins of the connected lesions and their internal architecture,  
672 and provides a precise follow-up after surgical removal [2, 32]. A prompt follow-up  
673 is essential for evaluation of further development of the permanent dentition at the  
674 removal location [2]. Additionally, CBCT imaging provides a detailed assessment of

675 odontomas and impacted teeth regarding position, distance to associated teeth and  
676 adjacent cortex, and occurrence of root resorption. Moreover, in patients with  
677 skeletal malocclusion caused by odontoma, the prioritization of treatment is of great  
678 importance. If surgical removal of odontoma is postponed, the probability of  
679 adjacent teeth impaction, and therefore malocclusion, increases. Also, it can  
680 compromise facial growth and cause facial asymmetry [33, 34]. Therefore, early  
681 diagnosis regarding impacted tooth is necessary in order to treat the impacted tooth  
682 with for example an orthodontic appliance [35].  
683

### 684 **Conclusion**

685  
686 In conclusion, CBCT offers precise position and accurate diagnosis of complex  
687 and compound odontomas, while providing important information on treatment  
688 management and follow-up that isn't apparent on 2D imaging. Therefore, this  
689 review presents a CBCT classification matrix for odontomas describing 1) Giant  
690 odontoma; 2) Quantity; 3) Location within the arch; 4) Location in relation with  
691 adjacent teeth; 5) Maxilla location; 6) Mandible location; 7) Type; 8) Complications.  
692 Consequently, this pictorial review can freely provide the readers a classification  
693 matrix with a more complete description of complex and compound odontomas  
694 using CBCT data published in earlier studies together with our own clinical cases.  
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- **Ethical approval:** we obtained the approval from our University and Hospital Ethical Committee for this study (B403/2019/03DEC/542)

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- **Informed consent:** Patients n°4, 7, 11, 12 were exempted from the informed consent according to the ethical committee approval. There was no need for the informed consent for patients n°1-3, 5, 6, 8-10 as all the images were anonymized and no private data were provided allowing the patient's identification.

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**Authors contribution:**

Author	Contributor role
Dubron Kathia	Conceptualization, Investigation, Methodology, Data curation, Validation, Writing original draft preparation, Writing review and editing
Gurniak Anna	Data curation, Validation, Writing review and editing
Gurniak Eliza	Data curation, Validation, Writing review and editing
Politis Constantinus	Validation, Writing review and editing
Olszewski Raphael	Conceptualization, Investigation, Methodology, Data curation, Resources, Validation, Writing original draft preparation, Supervision, Writing review and editing

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