

## ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

# Relationship between body mass index with eruption of third permanent molar teeth

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### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** The aim of the study is to investigate the relationship between the nutritional status and the permanent eruption of the third molar teeth aged 13-26 years.

**Introduction:** It is known that chronology of dental development is less variable than the bone development and the method applied for this particular period of life is a reliable indicator of age. Though eruption of teeth may be affected by dietary variation, the eruption time for teeth are fairly constant. **Materials and methods:** It is a cross-sectional prospective study conducted among the people aged 13-26 years through a questionnaire over 100 participants. **Results:** A total of 51% male and 49% female were participated in this study. Out of 25 participants of complete third molar eruption, majority 52% (13) participants were belonging to female. In this study, the percentage of complete third molar eruption among the participants with different Body Mass Index (BMI) categories like underweight, normal and overweight were 7, 16 and 2 respectively. **Conclusion:** These findings suggest a relationship between nutritional status with eruption of third permanent molars. As the complete eruption of third molar is less with underweight and obese individuals, initiatives should be undertaken for health promotion among the common people regarding oral health and healthy eating.

**Keywords:** Height; weight; dentition; obesity; malnutrition.

### INTRODUCTION

One of the greatest problems for India is undernutrition among children. Malnutrition, the condition resulting from faulty nutrition, weakens the immune system and causes significant growth and cognitive delay. Growth assessment is the measurement that best defines the health and nutritional status of children.<sup>1</sup> A balanced diet contains all the elements is very necessary for the growth of the teeth.<sup>2</sup> So, nutritional

deficiencies can delay the process of eruption of permanent teeth.<sup>3</sup>

On the other hand, dental development is relatively independent from another systems of maturation.<sup>4</sup> Though eruption of teeth may be affected by dietary, climatic, racial and geographical variation, the eruption time for deciduous and permanent teeth are fairly constant. Eruption of teeth is one of the changes observed easily among the various dynamic changes that occur from formation of teeth to the final shedding of it. There is a significant time lag between cutting of a tooth into the mouth and completion of eruption of teeth.<sup>5</sup>

As it is a debatable to know whether nutritional status has any role in the process of dentition or not, this paper has aimed to know the relationship between the nutritional status with eruption of permanent third molar teeth of aged 13-26 years.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

It is was a cross-sectional prospective study conducted over 100 participants aged 13-26 years. Here, we have investigated

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eruption of permanent third molar teeth in relation to nutritional status along with some co-variants with the help of a pre-designed and pre-tested questionnaire, anthropometric measurements and clinical examination of the participants in the year 2019 in Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh, Assam and India.

Prior to collection of the data, Human Institutional Ethical Clearance was taken which included informed consent of

the participant. The data thus collected were analyzed using Microsoft Excel software.

## RESULTS

A total of 51% male and 49% female were participated in this study of evaluation of permanent third molar eruption (TME) and its relationship with the nutritional status. The age and sex wise distribution of cases are shown in **Table 1**.

**Table 1** Distribution of the study participants according to age and sex

Age (in Years)	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
13	1		3		4	4
14	6		13		19	19
15	14		9		23	23
16	5		2		7	7
17	2		1		3	3
18	1		1		2	2
19	2		2		4	4
20	2		2		4	4
21	5		5		10	10
22	3		2		5	5
23	4		3		7	7
24	2		3		5	5
25	3		1		4	4
26	1		2		3	3
Total	51	51.0	49	49.0	100	100

In this study, 50% cases showed no eruption where as 25% cases showed complete TME. Out of 25 cases of complete

TME, 52% (13) cases were belong to female. TME was more 18% (18) common in lower jaw. Details are shown in **Table 2**.

**Table 2** Status of TME in Male and Female in different quadrant of Jaw

Status of Eruption	Overall		Male		Female		p-value
	No.	Mean $\pm$ SD	No.	Mean $\pm$ SD	No.	Mean $\pm$ SD	
No Eruption	50	14.62 $\pm$ 0.88	24	14.96 $\pm$ 0.91	26	14.31 $\pm$ 0.74	0.007
UL	1	----	0	----	1	----	----
UR	3	16.00 $\pm$ 1.73	3	16.00 $\pm$ 1.73	0	----	----
Both Upper	0	----	0	----	0	----	----
LL	1	----	1	----	0	----	----
LR	2	17.50 $\pm$ 3.54	1	----	1	----	----
Both Lower	18	20.72 $\pm$ 2.49	10	21.40 $\pm$ 2.27	8	19.88 $\pm$ 2.64	0.206
Complete Eruption	25	22.92 $\pm$ 1.94	12	22.83 $\pm$ 1.99	13	23.00 $\pm$ 1.96	0.835

UL – Upper left, UR- Upper right, LL- Lower left, LR- Lower right

The mean age of completion of TME in male is 22.92 years

and in female it is 23 years although earliest TME was at 20 years of age and that too in female and completed by 25 years in both the sexes as shown in **Table 3**.

**Table 3** Mean age at completion of TME in Male and Female

Status	Overall		Male		Female		p-value
	No.	Mean $\pm$ SD	No.	Mean $\pm$ SD	No.	Mean $\pm$ SD	
Incomplete Eruption	75	16.32 $\pm$ 3.01	15	16.79 $\pm$ 3.14	10	15.81 $\pm$ 2.81	0.156
Complete Eruption	25	22.92 $\pm$ 1.94	12	22.83 $\pm$ 1.99	13	23.00 $\pm$ 1.96	0.835

**Table 4** Mean age at Eruption of permanent 3<sup>rd</sup> molar teeth in upper and lower jaw

	Upper Jaw		Lower Jaw		p-value
	No.	Mean $\pm$ SD	No.	Mean $\pm$ SD	
Either Left or Right	2	18.00 $\pm$ 00	2	19.50 $\pm$ 0.71	----
Both Left & Right	18	20.72 $\pm$ 2.49	0	----	----

In **Table 4**, mean age at eruption of third molar in upper and lower jaw are shown as a comparison.

## DISCUSSION

Public health issues and nutritional imbalances of the people of Assam, living in this part of the Nation still needs special attention.

Out of 100 participants of this study, 25%(25) shows complete TME in all quadrants where female outnumbered by 52%(13), over male 48%(12). TME was more 18%(18) in both lower jaw. This finding is in strong agreement with a study carried out by Mahanta P. In his study, it was revealed that earliest TME to be in female at 16 year and completed by 24 years in both the sexes and that too in lower jaw in both the sexes.<sup>6,7</sup>

Many other studies on TME it was concluded that it erupts earliest by 16-17 years and that too in female and one year later in male and completed by 24 years in both the sexes. This findings of third molar eruption between 16-25 years are well tallied with the findings of Gorden et al<sup>8</sup>, Scot<sup>9</sup>, Polson<sup>10</sup>, Smith<sup>11</sup>, Kerr<sup>12</sup>, Grewal<sup>13</sup>, Savara and Steen<sup>14</sup>, Tedeschi et al<sup>15</sup>, Hassanali<sup>16</sup>, Hagg and Taranger<sup>17</sup>, Pathak et

al<sup>18</sup>, Rao<sup>19</sup>, Vij<sup>20</sup>, Korhonen et al.<sup>21</sup> and Chaurasia.<sup>22</sup> Although, the female preponderance of TME and its completion time are tallied with those findings, yet it differ in earliest TME time with the present study. These discrepancies with the current study may be because of a smaller number of study participants and different geographical areas, etc.

The mean age of TME in both left and right quadrant was 20.72 years. TME is more (20%) in average economic group (BG Prasad's Social Class II).

In this study the percentage of complete TME among the participants with different BMI categories like underweight, normal and overweight were 7, 16 and 2 respectively. This high percentage of complete TME with the participant of normal BMI (p-value=0.002) is an agreement with a study conducted by Alhamda Syukra.<sup>3</sup> However, incomplete TME was more (35%) with the underweight participants signifying the needs of good nutrition for appropriate dentition, etc. Malnutrition and poor nutrition in early childhood affects tooth eruption. This finding is also supported by Eskeli R et al.<sup>23</sup>

The relation of TME with Socio-demographic variables are shown in **Table 5** with **BMI**.

**Table 5** Relation of Eruption of permanent 3<sup>rd</sup> molar teeth with Socio-demographic variables

Variables		Incomplete Eruption	Complete Eruption	p-value
Age (in years)	13	4	0	0.000
	14	19	0	
	15	23	0	
	16	7	0	
	17	3	0	
	18	2	0	
	19	4	0	
	20	2	2	
	21	4	6	
	22	2	3	
	23	2	5	
	24	3	2	
	25	0	4	
	26	0	3	
Sex	Male	39	12	0.819
	Female	36	13	
Place of Residence	Rural	15	12	0.006
	Urban	60	13	
Economic Status	I	10	4	0.000
	II	10	20	
	III	23	1	
	IV	32	0	
History of Disease	Yes	0	0	-----
	No	75	25	
BMI	Underweight	35	7	0.002
	Normal	31	16	
	Overweight/Obese	9	2	
Height in cm	140-150	13	4	0.171
	150-160	32	5	
	160-170	23	12	
	170-180	7	4	
Weight in kg	40-60	66	16	0.015
	60-80	9	8	
	Above 80	0	1	

and Alvarez et al.,<sup>24</sup> though a study done by Boenjamin et al. in Jakarta showed no association between nutritional status with the eruption of permanent third molar teeth.<sup>25</sup>

## CONCLUSION

The present study showed a significant association between Body Mass Index with the eruption of third molars in Dibrugarh City. On comparing the eruption of third molar

teeth in both the sexes, female showed an overall earlier eruption than males. Further, participant who were underweight and over weight were found to have delay in eruption of third molar teeth than participant with normal BMI. Hence, in future, longitudinal and multicentric researches are recommended with wide range of participants to determine the trends in the eruption of third molar teeth among Assamese population.

**Limitation:** Number of participants should have been larger. A good number of participants is necessary to opine about TME in some variables with accuracy.

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