Title: Prevalence of the positions of incluted third molars to the according to Pell & Gregory´s classification and the indications for its extraction

Abstract

Despite the removal of third molars is one of the most common surgical procedures in dentistry, its elective removal is not a consensus among professionals. The identification of the tooth position is a factor of great importance in making the decision to maintain or extract the included element, as well as for planning the surgical technique and for the outcome of the intervention. This study was conducted with the purpose to identify the prevalence of positioning of included third molars and the indications for its extraction. Prospectively, four hundred included teeth were identified in a sample of 175 patients, 90 male and 85 female, with a mean age of 26.6 years, users of the Air Force health system in the region of Brasília, DF. In each patient´s identification form were also inserted information about the reason for extraction and the position of each impacted tooth, by the means of panoramic and periapical radiographs and classified according to the Pell & Gregory´s classification. The data were submitted to a descriptive statistical analysis, which found: Position B 39.0%, followed by the position A (35,5%) and position C (25.5%). For the inferior third molars, the most found position was Class I (49,23%), followed by Class II (47,28%) and by Class III (3,59%). The most frequent indications for the third molars extraction was impaction/inclusion (53%), orthodontist´s request (11.25%), pericoronaritis (11%) and cavity (10.75%).

Descriptors: Third molar. Impacted tooth. Unerupted tooth. Prevalence.