

OPINION



by **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elitsa Georgieva Deliverska-Aleksandrova, PhD**

Department of Dental, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery,

Faculty of Dental Medicine, Medical University of Sofia

member of the Scientific Jury, designated by Order No. P-1277/ 03.08. 2020 of
the Rector of the Medical University of Plovdiv

on a dissertation for receiving a
doctoral degree

under doctoral programme Oral Surgery, sphere of higher education: 7.
Healthcare and Sports, professional field: 7.2. Dental Medicine

Author: Dr. Radka Borisova Cholakova

Form of doctoral study: self-training

Department: Department of Oral Surgery, Faculty of Dental Medicine, Medical
University of Plovdiv

Theme: Supernumerary Teeth – Epidemiological, Clinical and Radiological
Studies

Academic supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Deyan Zdravkov Neychev,
PhD, Department of Oral Surgery, Faculty of Dental Medicine, Medical
University of Plovdiv

General presentation of the procedure and the doctoral candidate

The presented set of materials in paper/electronic form is in accordance
with Art. 115 (1) of the Procedure for Awarding Doctoral Degrees at the Medical
University of Plovdiv, set in the Regulations of the Medical University of Plovdiv
of 06 Nov 2014.

The dissertation consists of 191 pages and is structured properly, in
accordance with the accepted academic requirements in our country: introduction;
literature review; unresolved problems; objective and tasks; material and
methods; results and discussion; conclusions; contributions; bibliography and
appendices.

The bibliography of the dissertation includes 176 references, 7 of which are
in Cyrillic and 169 in Latin. The dissertation is illustrated with 12 tables, 34
figures, 57 diagrams and 37 appendices.

The doctoral candidate has enclosed 4 scientific publications and 4
participations in scientific forums related to the theme of the dissertation.

Biographical notes of the author

Dr. Radka Borisova Cholakova was born in 1978.

- 2001 - Master-Doctor in Dental Medicine, Faculty of Dental Medicine at the Medical University of Plovdiv.

- 2005 - acquired specialty in Oral Surgery, Faculty of Dental Medicine at the Medical University of Plovdiv.

- since 2005 - present - assistant at the Department of Oral Surgery, Faculty of Dental Medicine at the Medical University of Plovdiv.

Dr. Cholakova conducts practicals and seminars in oral surgery for dental students. She is also actively involved in the practical training for obtaining specialization in oral surgery, and in the implementation of the scientific programme of the Department.

She has good communication skills, teamwork skills and quick adaptation, demonstrates loyalty, responsibility, good organization and correctness in her relations with the staff of the Department of Oral Surgery. She is in charge of Educational Activities and Quality of Education at the Department of Oral Surgery, Faculty of Dental Medicine, Medical University of Plovdiv. She has a good command of English and Russian.

She is a member of the Bulgarian Dental Association (BDA),

Significance of the dissertation

The dissertation of Dr. Radka Borisova Cholakova is significant as it is an objective modern study of supernumerary teeth in the context of oral surgery. Besides in the daily practice of oral surgeons and orthodontists, the conclusions of the dissertation can be used in the training of students and graduates, and would be of interest to general dental practitioners.

This paper analyses a significant problem in the practice related to clinical management of supernumerary teeth, which is often addressed in close collaboration and discussion by orthodontists and oral surgeons. Early diagnosis, especially in childhood, is essential for taking an appropriate, timely therapeutic approach. Defining the timeline for extraction of the excess tooth, together with the indications for this procedure, is of great importance for the clinical practice.

Knowledge on the problem

The literature review is highly informative and ends with a clear rationale for the need to introduce a system for management of supernumerary teeth through the use of modern diagnostic methods and clearly defined indications for extraction of supernumerary teeth. The doctoral candidate has examined in detail the available literature on the problem. The authors cited, most of whom are from recent years, are leaders in this field, and the design of the conducted study is based on their experience and the personal clinical experience of the doctoral candidate.

The issues related to supernumerary teeth, the diagnostic process, the indications for surgical treatment, the timelines and the choice of surgical access are explained in detail.

The objective of the dissertation was defined correctly and 4 main tasks were set for its implementation. A sufficient number of patients and the appropriate methods of study were selected to solve the tasks.

Material and methods

The material is sufficient for scientific work and for obtaining reliable results: in task 1 - 1,000 dental patients; in task 2 - 160 patients with registered supernumerary teeth; in task 3 - 32 patients diagnosed with hyperodontia and having indications for surgical treatment. Based on in-depth research, an algorithm for treatment of supernumerary teeth was developed.

The criteria for patient selection in the study and the exclusion criteria for each of the tasks are clearly set. The units and signs are specified, together with the time of observation for the respective tasks.

The methods used for implementation of the tasks set are precisely presented and have enabled the doctoral candidate to obtain significant qualitative and quantitative original results. The following were used: clinical and radiological studies - dental radiography, occlusal radiography, panoramic radiography, CBCT and statistical methods.

Analysis of the results and discussion

An in-depth analysis of the results obtained in the three tasks was conducted, and the data regarding each parameter predefined in the methodology of the scientific research was analysed in detail. In task 4, an algorithm for management of supernumerary teeth was developed and the optimal time for surgical treatment was defined.

The appropriate graphic presentation and the professional approach of the doctoral candidate in the interpretation of the data obtained make an excellent impression.

The conclusions are 8 and they **fully correlate with the tasks set.**

The presented clinical cases are accurately documented with photo material.

Contributions and significance of the dissertation for the science and practice

The in-depth and professionally conducted study has enabled the doctoral candidate to make a number of original conclusions regarding the epidemiological, clinical and radiological studies of supernumerary teeth.

The conclusions, impressions and contributions logically follow the results of precisely conducted studies and are undoubtedly significant for the modern clinical practice.

Author's summary

The author's summary is fully consistent with the content of the dissertation and was developed in accordance with the academic requirements. The doctoral candidate has enclosed a list of 4 publications and 4 participations in scientific forums related to the theme of her scientific work.

Conclusion

The dissertation is significant, well-structured, with correctly selected methods, reliable results and with theoretical and applied contributions to dental medicine.

The work meets the criteria for a dissertation, has contributions to both surgical and orthodontic practice, as well as to the daily dental practice, and has a scientific contribution to the Bulgarian research community.

The theme of the scientific work is relevant for the daily clinical practice and shows that the doctoral candidate has good knowledge of the modern specialized literature in its extensiveness and specialization, and has good understanding of the methodology for analysis of the results of scientific research.

The results provide an opportunity to bring order and clarity to the issues related to supernumerary teeth in the context of the various specialties dealing with this pathology. Based on the work, an algorithm for management of supernumerary teeth was developed.

The dissertation contains original and applied contributions, and meets all requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and is **in full** compliance with the particular requirements set in its Implementation Rules as well as with the regulations of the Medical University of Plovdiv.

The dissertation shows that **Dr. Radka Borisova Cholakova** possesses in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional competence in the scientific specialty *Oral Surgery* and **demonstrates** competences and skills for conducting independent research.

In conclusion, I give my positive opinion on the study conducted, and I hope that the honourable members of the jury will vote positively for **Dr. Radka Borisova Cholakova** to obtain doctoral degree under a doctoral program in oral surgery.

Sofia, 05 august 2020

Opinion by:

(Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elitsa Deliverska-Aleksandrova, PhD)

