Normal Anatomic Variation in Intraoral Radiography

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Trabecular Pattern













Maxillary Incisor



Nasal septum Inferior concha Nasal fossa Nasal spine Incisive foramen Nose **Median palatine suture**

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a = nasal septum
b = inferior concha
c = nasal fossa
d = anterior nasal spine

palatal view



e = incisive foramen f = median palatal suture





Nasal septum





Inferior concha





Nasal fossa





Anterior nasal spine





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Incisive foramen

palatal view



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Median palatal suture



Soft tissue of the nose

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0

a = nasal septum
b = inferior concha
e = incisive foramen
d = anterior nasal spine

Red arrow points to periapical lesion (post-endo). **Red arrows = lip line**

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Superior foramina of the nasopalatine canals (red arrows). These foramina lie in the floor of the nasal fossa. The nasopalatine canals travel downward to join in the incisive foramen.

Nasopalatin Canal



A





The red arrows point to an incisive canal cyst; the orange arrow identifies the root of tooth # 7.

All the incisors are non-vital and have periapical lesions. The purple arrows point to external resorption; the blue arrow identifies internal resorption.





The red arrows point to the soft tissue of the nose. The green arrows identify the lip line.

Maxillary Canine



Floor of nasal fossa

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Maxillary sinus

Lateral fossa

Nose



a = floor of nasal fossa b = maxillary sinus c = lateral fossa (a & b form inverted Y)



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Floor of nasal fossa (red arrows) and anterior border of maxillary sinus (blue arrows), forming the inverted (upside down) Y.



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Lateral fossa. The radiolucency results from a depression above and posterior to the lateral incisor. To help rule out pathology, look for an intact lamina dura surrounding the adjacent teeth.





nasolabial fold





Red arrows point to nasolabial fold. Also note the inverted Y.



The white arrows indicate the floor of the nasal fossa. The maxillary sinus (red arrows) has pneumatized between the 2nd premolar and first molar

The red arrow identifies the lateral fossa. The pink arrow points to CPP (chronic periapical periodontitis = abscess, granuloma, etc.).

Maxillary Premolar

Sinus recess

Zygomatic process

Maxillary sinus

a = malar process b = sinus recess c = sinus septum d = maxillary sinus

facial view White arrow:zygomatic process Red&short black arrow:zygomatic bone

Sinus septum. This septum is composed of folds of cortical bone that arise from the floor and walls of the maxillary sinus, extending several millimeters into the sinus. In rare cases, the septum completely divides the sinus into separate compartments.

Neurovascular canal

Blue arrows identify radiopacity which is a mucous retention cyst. Note relatively recent premolar extraction sites. Green arrow points to neurovascular canal. The red arrows point to the nasolabial fold. The thicker cheek tissue makes the area more radiopaque posterior to the line.

Pneumatization. Expansion of sinus wall into surrounding bone, usually in areas where teeth have been lost prematurely. Increases with age.

Maxillary Molar

Maxillary Tuberosity. The rounded elevation located at the posterior aspect of both sides of the maxilla. Aids in the retention of dentures.

Coronoid process. A mandibular structure sometimes seen on the maxillary molar periapical film when using the bisecting angle technique with finger retention (The mouth is opened wide, moving the coronoid down and forward). Note the supernumerary molar.

Hamular process (black arrows) and pterygoid plates (purple arrows). The hamular process is an extension of the medial pterygoid plate of the sphenoid bone, positioned just posterior to the maxillary tuberosity.

Zygomatic (malar) bone/process/arch. The zygomatic bone (white/black arrows) starts in the anterior aspect with the zygomatic process (blue arrow), which has a U-shape. The zygomatic bone extends posteriorly into the zygomatic arch (green arrow).

Maxillary sinus. As seen in the above film, the floor of the maxillary sinus flows around the roots of the maxillary molars and premolars. The walls of the sinus may become very thin. As a result, sinusitis may put pressure on the superior alveolar nerves resulting in apparent tooth pain, even though the tooth is perfectly healthy. Note coronoid process (green arrow), zygomatic bone (red arrow), sinus septum (yellow arrow) and neurovascular canal (orange arrows).

This film shows the coronoid process (green arrow) and a distomolar (blue arrow) that has erupted ahead of the third molar (red arrow). A distomolar is a supernumerary tooth that erupts distal (posterior) to the other molars.

The zygomatic process (red arrows) is a prominent Ushaped radiopacity. Normally the zygomatic bone posterior to this is very dense and radiopaque. In this patient, however, the maxillary sinus has expanded into the zygomatic bone and makes the area more radiolucent . The coronoid process (orange arrow), the pterygoid plates (blue arrows) and the maxillary tuberosity (pink arrows) are also identified.

Orbital Entrance of Naso-lachrymal Canal

Mandibular Incisor

Genial tubercles

Lingual foramen

lingual view

facial view

a = lingual foramenb = genial tubercles

c = mental ridge d = mental fossa

Lingual foramen. Radiolucent "hole" in center of genial tubercles. Lingual nutrient vessels pass through this foramen.

lingual view

Genial tubercles. Radiopaque area in the midline, midway between the inferior border of the mandible and the apices of the incisors. Serve as attachments for the genioglossus and geniohyoid muscles. May have radiolucent hole in center (lingual foramen), but not on this film. Note double rooted canine (red arrows).

Mental ridge. These represent the raised portions of the mental protuberance on either side of the midline. More commonly seen when using the bisecting angle technique, when the x-ray beam is directed at an upward angle through the ridges.

Mental ridge. The raised portions of the mental protuberance, sloping downward and backward from the midline.

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Mental fossa. This represents a depression on the labial aspect of the mandible overlying the roots of the incisors. The resulting radiolucency may be mistaken for pathology.

The orange arrows above identify nutrient canals. They are most often seen in older persons with thin bone, and in those with high blood pressure or advanced periodontitis.

Mandibular Canine

Mental ridge

Lingual foramen

Genial tubercles

Cortical bone

Mental foramen

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a = mental ridge c = mental foramen

lingual view

 b_1 = genial tubercles b_2 = lingual foramen

lingual view

Lingual foramen/genial tubercles. (See description under mandibular incisor above).

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The red arrows identify the mandibular canal and the blue arrow points to the mental foramen.

Mandibular Premolar

Mylohyoid ridge

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Submandibular gland fossa

Mental foramen

Mandibular canal

a = mylohyoid ridge (internal oblique) c = submandibular gland fossa

lingual view

mylohyoid ridge (internal oblique)

Mandibular canal. (Inferior alveolar canal). Runs downward from the mandibular foramen to the mental foramen, passing close to the roots of the molars. More easily seen in the molar periapical.

Superimposition of the inferior alveolar canal over the apex of a molar causes the image of the periodontal ligament space to appear wider *(arrow)*. However, the presence of an intact lamina dura indicates that there is no periapical disease.

FIG. 12.59 Bifid inferior alveolar canal. (A) Cone beam sagittal section

lingual view

Submandibular gland fossa. The depression below the mylohyoid ridge where the submandibular gland is located. More obvious in the molar periapical film.

Mental foramen. Usually located midway between the upper and lower borders of the body of the mandible, in the area of the premolars. May mimic pathology if superimposed over the apex of one of the premolars.

Mandibular Molar

External oblique ridge

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Mylohyoid ridge (internal oblique)

Mandibular canal

Submandibular gland fossa

lingual view

a = external oblique ridge c = mandibular canal

b = mylohyoid ridge d = submandibular gland fossa

- a = external oblique ridge
- **b** = mylohyoid ridge
- c = mandibular canal
- d = submandibular gland fossa

External oblique ridge. A continuation of the anterior border of the ramus, passing downward and forward on the buccal side of the mandible. It appears as a distinct radiopaque line which usually ends anteriorly in the area of the first molar. Serves as an attachment of the buccinator muscle. (The red arrows point to the mylohyoid ridge).

lingual view

Mylohyoid ridge (internal oblique). Located on the lingual surface of the mandible, extending from the third molar area to the premolar region. Serves as the attachment of the mylohyoid muscle.

Mandibular (inferior alveolar) canal. Arises at the mandibular foramen on the lingual side of the ramus and passes downward and forward, moving from the lingual side of the mandible in the third molar region to the buccal side of the mandible in the premolar region. Contains the inferior alveolar nerve and vessels.

Submandibular gland fossa. A depression on the lingual side of the mandible below the mylohyoid ridge. The submandibular gland is located in this region. Due to the thinness of bone, the trabecular pattern of the bone is very sparse and results in the area being very radiolucent. The fact that it occurs bilaterally helps to differentiate it from pathology.

The external oblique ridge (red arrows) and the mylohyoid ridge (blue arrows) usually run parallel with each other, with the external oblique ridge always being higher on the film.

The mandibular canal (red arrows identify inferior border of canal) usually runs very close to the roots of the molars, especially the third molar. This can be a problem when extracting these teeth. Note the extreme dilaceration (curving) of the roots of the third molar (green arrow) in the film at left. The film at right shows "kissing" impactions located at the superior border of the canal.

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Thanks for Attention