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## LETTER TO EDITOR

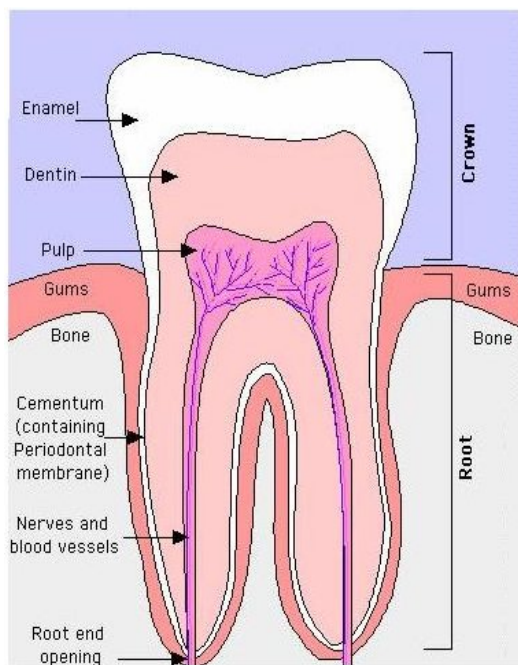
# Is There Any Relationship Between Coronal Displacement And Age In Impacted Teeth

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Dear Sir,

Cementum is the calcified tissue that surrounds the dentine and forms an attachment site for the periodontal fibers that link the tooth to alveolar bone.



(Table/Fig 1) Anatomy of Tooth

acellular cementum is produced before the tooth erupts and further layers are added during and after eruption. Cementum layer consists primarily of uncalcified dense bundles of collagen fibrils. These bundles later become mineralized by hydroxyapatite crystals, the changing orientations of which may be responsible for the optical effect of alternating dark and translucent layers. The first use of cementum in human age estimation began with measurements of width of the total cementum layer rather than with counts of incremental lines [1]. Many questions remain unanswered regarding the mechanisms of tooth cementum annulations and its influencing factors, particularly concerning the interpretation of seasonal increments [2], [3]. Two major factors found to be responsible for these changes are environmental effects and aging [3]. So in impacted teeth (teeth having erupting force but are unable to erupt due to obstacles such as alveolar bone), continuous displacement of cementum may occur with aging which is not the case with erupted teeth.

It may be because impacted teeth are protected by bone, i.e. no external environmental effect on teeth. It may also occur in erupted teeth but may be prevented by oral microflora or other environmental effects on coronal displacement of the cementum. This relationship between Coronal Displacement and Age in Impacted Teeth may serve as a useful reference not only in prevention of periodontal disease but also in age estimation.

## References

In cementum formation, hypermineralized layer of extracellular matrix alternate with less mineralized layers. The first layer of

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