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Etiology and Detection

K. Bekes

Department of Paediatric Dentistry, Medical University of Vienna,, Vienna, Austria

Molar incisor hypomineralization (MIH) is a frequently encountered dental condition worldwide. It is defined as hypomineralization of systemic origin of one to four permanent first molars frequently associated with affected incisors. Affected teeth are more prone to caries and post-eruptive enamel breakdown and should be diagnosed and managed as early as possible. Furthermore, tooth hypersensitivity is a common symptom in these patients. The etiology of MIH remains unclear. Over time, several etiological hypotheses have emerged, including pre-, peri- and postnatal factors. In general, the etiology appears to be multifactorial. Children with health problems in the first years of life and those whose mothers had illnesses during pregnancy may be more susceptible to MIH. Regarding diagnostics and classification of MIH affected teeth, the EAPD criteria can be used. Furthermore, the Wuerzburg concept offers a classification index – the MIH Treatment Need Index (MIH-TNI) – and a treatment concept based on it. This lecture aims to highlight different aspects related to MIH, from its etiology to diagnosis and classification possibilities.