

Accessory mental foramina assessed by cone-beam computed tomography: Report of unilateral and bilateral detection [Forámenes mentales accesorios evaluados mediante tomografía computarizada cone-beam: Reporte de su detección unilateral y bilateral]

Garay I.

Cantín M.

Accessory mental foramen (AMF) is a rare anatomical variation with particular importance in local anesthesia and surgical procedures, especially the placement of dental implants. We report the cases of two adult patients, which were referred for Cone-Beam Computed tomography (CBCT) evaluation, which revealed the presence of three AMFs connected to the mandibular canal, one case with one AMF on the right side unilaterally, and another case was bilateral. The mean diameter measured for the AMFs was 1.23 (± 0.45) mm, and the mean distance from the mandibular foramen to the AMF was 3.3 (± 1.5) mm, with the AMF located in the premolar area superiorly or distally to the MF. CBCT is an effective tool for tridimensional assessment of AMF. A CBCT should be obtained prior to mandibular surgeries so that the presence of accessory mental foramen can be detected, and to avoid the occurrence of a neurosensory disturbance or hemorrhage. The AMF is a rare, but considering relevant anatomic variation, this structure should be kept in mind in dental practice.

Accessory mental foramen

Anatomical variation

Cone-beam Computed tomography

Mental foramen