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Dentistry — Designation system for tooth developmental stages

*Médecine bucco-dentaire — Système de désignation des stades de
développement dentaire*

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Introduction

Many age estimation methods using various body systems exist; however, the human dentition is considered one of the most accurate biological indicators of chronological age. Because tooth development is predominantly regulated by genetics, environmental factors have only a minimal effect on the development process.

Dental age assessment is typically based on 2D radiographic data correlating the degree of tooth development to the chronological age of a population. However, there are different scoring systems, with different numbers of stages and nomenclature of stages. Furthermore, different methods use the same scoring system and have different time intervals. Therefore, the number of dental developmental stages can vary greatly depending on the method used. In addition, some methods only offer diagrams, without descriptors, of tooth stages, which can lead to ambiguity in stage assignment and can affect the accuracy of the result of a technique.

Therefore, creating a standardized terminology with diagrams for tooth developmental stages is vital to improve the consistency of these score attributions, add objectivity to the assessment and improve the accuracy of the results.

For the purposes of this document, the tooth designation is assigned as outlined in ISO 3950.

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