children has been reported by some investigators, while others have reported delayed tooth eruption. Double teeth have been found to be four times more prevalent in cleft children than non-cleft children.

Little work has been carried out on the occurrence of dental anomalies in cleft lip and/or palate children in the United Kingdom, and it was the main purpose of this study was to investigate such anomalies in a sample of cleft lip and/or palate children attending two cleft clinics in the country.

**Materials and methods.** One hundred and forty-eight children attending the cleft palate clinics at The London Hospital and St. Andrew's Hospital, Billericy were examined by the author. In the sample, seventy (61.4%) were boys. The most common congenitally missing tooth was the maxillary lateral incisor, and was so in 53.1% of the children examined. Of the children with a unilaterally missing lateral incisor, 58.3% had it on the side of the cleft. Frequent anomaly, with 42 (36.8%) of the children having one or more congenitally missing teeth. Most of those with hypodontia were from the CLP group (88.1%). Seventeen (40.5%) cases of hypodontia were in the deciduous dentition whilst, 25 (59.5%) were in the permanent dentition.
The prevalence of supernumerary teeth in the deciduous dentition was higher than in the permanent dentition in the present study, which also the case in earlier reports.\textsuperscript{5,22}

The highest percentage of children with supernumerary teeth was found in the cleft lip group. Similar findings have been reported by a number of investigators,\textsuperscript{5,9,20} although Kraus et al, found supernumerary teeth with the same frequency in all cleft types\textsuperscript{7} and Millhon and Stafne\textsuperscript{3} reported a significantly higher number of supernumerary teeth in clinic lip and palate, and cleft palate children than in children with cleft lip alone.

The prevalence of double teeth found in the present sample was higher than in non-cleft British School children.\textsuperscript{26}

In conclusion this study confirms the general consensus that the occurrence of abnormalities such as supernumeraries, hypodontia and double teeth in cleft children is greater than in non-cleft children. It is suggested that the high prevalence of such anomalies, as confirmed here, may be an important factor in the overall oral and dental status of such individuals.

Acknowledgments. The authors wish to thank Dr. Joyce Smith for her help during the study and Dr. Ridwaan Omar in the preparation of this article.

References

19. Ranta R; Stegab T; Rintala AE. Correlation of hypodontia in children with isolated cleft palate.
20. Nagai I; Fujiuki Y; Fujihata H; Yoshimoto T. Supernumerary tooth associated with cleft lip and palate.
24. Hunter WS. The effect of clefting on crown-root length, eruption, height in twins discordant for clefts of lip and/or palate.