is counted as one.\textsuperscript{3,5} Ggemination was excluded from the diagnosis because according to most authors gemination usually presents with a single root canal.\textsuperscript{3} Separate root canals are usually found in fusion, however, this does not hold true for all cases. The present case is quite unusual as very few cases have been reported in the literature. A large percentage of anterior supernumerary teeth remain unerupted (75\%) while 25\% are partially erupted.\textsuperscript{3} In our case the mesiodens was completely erupted. The overall prevalence of mesiodens is 0.15\% to 1.9\%.\textsuperscript{1} We suggest that a new terminology should be given to such cases of fusion of a supernumerary tooth with an adjacent tooth to avoid confusion between fusion and gemination.

A. A. Sholapurkar
K. M. Pai
Manipal

MEDICAL AND DENTAL GOLD

Sir, in response to T. Sebastian's letter (BJD 2008; 204: 545), as a Muslim dentist, I would like to explain that in Islam it is allowed for males to use gold and silver for medical reasons only. The use of gold and silver is prohibited for males if used as jewels for example as finger rings and so forth.

O. Menia
By email

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2008.573

UNNECESSARY WASTE

Sir, in January I sent an email to Mr Rudkin, Registrar of the General Dental Council. In it I raised the issue of unnecessary waste by the GDC when dealing with the registration of dentists and the future registration of DCPs.

In November 2007 I received notification of the need to renew my registration by 31 December. I received a reminder in December. My dental nurse who was already registered received further registration information. I suspect this was not a unique occurrence.

I expressed my opinion that this duplication of correspondence was totally unjustified, was a waste of our, the registrants', money, and was a scandalous environmental waste.

It is my view that it is the individual's responsibility to ensure that his/her registration is renewed in time. Reminders should not be required. I have managed to renew mine annually for the past 35 years.

After some prompting and resubmission of my email I received an acknowledgement of its receipt but as yet I have received no reply.

To me this is a further example of the increasingly arrogant attitude of the GDC towards its registrants. I suggest that it is perhaps time for the profession to carry out a critical analysis of its regulatory body.

J. Aitken
Keniworth

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2008.574