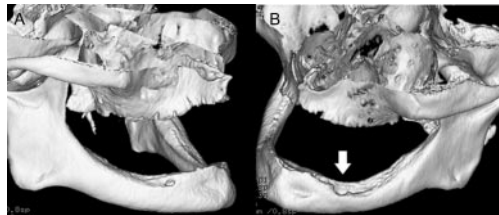


Teaching NeuroImages: Numb chin syndrome in an edentulous patient

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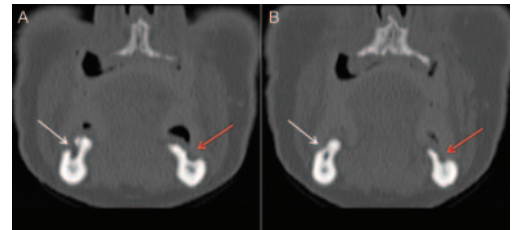
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Figure 1 Three-dimensional CT volume-rendered reconstruction of mandible



Edentulous mandible with bone loss along the left (B), alveolar margin compared with the right (A), with unroofing of the left mental foramen (arrow) is shown.

Figure 2 CT mandible with reformatted coronal images



A normal right inferior alveolar canal and mental foramen (white arrow) and abnormal structures on the left (red arrow) are shown.

A 49-year-old woman presented with isolated chin hypoesthesia. She had no history of malignancy or systemic symptoms and has worn dentures for 24 years. Results of a neurologic examination were unremarkable except for a hypoesthetic area of her left chin. DentaScan showed unroofing of the left mental foramen (figures 1 and 2). Results of extensive investigation for malignancy were negative.

Numb chin syndrome causes hypoesthesia, paresthesia, or orofacial pain from mental nerve compression and can be an ominous sign of systemic illness or malignancy.¹ Mental neuropathy in edentulous patients from erosion into the mental foramen has

been described previously.² Realignment of her dentures resolved her symptoms.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Dr. Szewka: drafting and editing of manuscript for medical content and format imaging. H. Purdy: drafting of manuscript for medical content and format imaging. Dr. Topel: editing manuscript for medical content. Dr. Jhaveri: editing manuscript for medical content and obtaining and interpreting relevant neuroimaging.

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