Use of 3D models of teeth for teaching in dental anatomy

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Abstract
This study presented a 3D model of the human tooth created from the study of the Dental Anatomy Atlas and naturals teeth for to contribute to the teaching of anatomy in Dentistry.

Key words: morphology, anatomy, digital teach.

Introduction
In Dentistry, the emphasis to the study of head and neck anatomy, mainly focusing on the teeth, it is essential to understand the different areas of this profession. In teaching and research, human teeth should be studied in detail. The teaching in the Universities has evolved with the introduction of digital tools that enable three-dimensional understanding of craniofacial and dental anatomy¹.

The aim of this study was create a three-dimensional (3D) model of the human upper incisors tooth to assist as teaching material in dental anatomy classes.

Results and Discussion
In this study, the central incisor modeling activity for learning the shape and tooth structures was performed in Rhinoceros 3D 5.0 software (McNeel & Associates).

The Image 1 shows the 3D model of the upper central incisor, which will be used in theoretical undergraduate classes of Dental Anatomy to assist in the teaching and study.

1. Gingivae 
2. Lingual Fossa 
3. Apical foramen

Image 1. A: Disto-buccal face of the upper central incisor; B: Mesio-buccal face of the upper central incisor. Rhinoceros 3D 5.0 (McNeel & Associates) software.

Conclusions
The 3D model of the tooth studied contributed to the performed of a new approach to the teaching of dental anatomy.

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¹ Sun, W.; Starly, B.; Nam, J.; Darling, A. Comput Aided Design. 2005, 37, 1097-1114