# The root cause: investigating intermittent inferior alveolar nerve paraesthesia from a multi-rooted third molar

**Précis:** Pericoronitis-associated inferior alveolar nerve paraesthesia was resolved following coronectomy of a morphologically complex mandibular third molar in intimate relationship with the inferior alveolar nerve.

## Abstract

This paper describes a case of intermittent inferior alveolar nerve (IAN) paraesthesia temporally related to episodes of pericoronitis affecting a mandibular third molar in close association with the IAN. A 23-year-old female patient was referred to oral surgery by oral medicine with a two-month history of intermittent alternating numbness and pain associated with the lower left lip and chin. Clinical and radiographic investigations confirmed a partially erupted left mandibular third molar in close association with the IAN. Subsequent cone-beam computed tomography (CBCT) revealed that the lower left 8 (LL8) had two mesial and two distal roots. The IAN pathway grooved the distal roots and perforated the mesial. A coronectomy was completed, resulting in the resolution of symptoms.

**Keywords:** mandibular third molar, inferior alveolar nerve, coronectomy, paraesthesia, nerve injury.

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# Evaluation of a workshop to develop dental undergraduates' behaviour change conversation knowledge and confidence

**Précis:** A workshop on the Dental RECUR Brief Negotiated Interview builds dental undergraduates' knowledge of, and confidence delivering, a behaviour change conversation with a dental patient.


## Abstract

**Introduction:** The General Dental Council's Safe Practitioner framework of behaviours and outcomes for dental professional education outlines the need for dental undergraduates to learn evidence-based approaches to clinical practice. The Dental RECUR Brief Negotiated Interview (DR-BNI) is an effective oral health behaviour change intervention that draws upon psychological frameworks of disease prevention, behaviour change science, and patient-facing communication skills. Training in this approach involves developing participants' knowledge of childhood caries, and confidence applying personalised preventive advice to clinical practice via supervised role-play.

**Materials and methods:** This study explored the effectiveness of a DR-BNI training workshop on developing dental undergraduates' behaviour change conversation knowledge and confidence. Seventeen participants completed a pre-post evaluation, which assessed their knowledge of DR-BNI-related topics and confidence in applying relevant skills to clinical practice.

**Results:** Participants' knowledge of all topics, including the development of dental caries in children, motivational interviewing, and behaviour change theory, significantly increased following the workshop. Participants' confidence in applying skills for delivering a behaviour change conversation with a dental patient also significantly increased.

**Conclusion:** The DR-BNI represents a useful model for developing dental undergraduates' behaviour change conversation knowledge and confidence.


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