

Review

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Posted Date: 6 September 2023

doi: 10.20944/preprints202309.0175.v1

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Review

Oligodontia in the Clinical Spectrum of Syndromes: A Systematic Review

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Abstract: The aim of this systematic review was to describe clinical and genetic features of syndromes showing oligodontia as a sign. The review was performed according to the PRISMA 2020 checklist guidelines, and the search was conducted using PubMed, Scopus, Lilacs, Web of science, Livivo and EMBASE and supplemented by a gray literature search on Google Scholar and ProQuest, applying key terms relevant to the research questions. The systematic review identified 49 types of syndromes in 91 studies, and the most common was hypohidrotic ectodermal dysplasia, which was reported in 24 patients in 22 studies. Other commonest syndromes that reported oligodontia included Axenfeld-Rieger syndrome, Witkop's syndrome, Ellis-van Creveld syndrome, blepharochelodontic syndrome and oculo-facio-cardio-dental syndrome. The X-linked mode of inheritance was the most reported (n = 14 studies), followed by the autosomal dominant (n = 11 studies). The review describes the main syndromes that may have oligodontia as a clinical sign and reinforce the need of oro-dental-facial examining for adequate diagnosis and treatment of the affected patients. Molecular analysis in order to better understand the occurrence of oligodontia is imperative.

Keywords: tooth agenesis; oligodontia; syndrome; systematic review

1. Introduction

Tooth agenesis is defined as the absence of teeth from the normal series by a failure to develop, and encompasses hypodontia, oligodontia, and anodontia [1]. The absence of up to five teeth is classified as hypodontia, the congenital absence of six or more teeth is defined as oligodontia, and anodontia refers to the complete absence of all teeth from the normal series [1]. Tooth development is regulated by a series of signaling pathways, and genetic mutations in specific genes have been described as the cause of such defects [2,3]. Besides, environmental factors such as trauma, infections,

toxins and dietary deficiencies have been implicated and could interact with the genetic factors as a complex and multifactorial disease [4,5].

The occurrence of oligodontia can be observed as an isolated trait (non-syndromic oligodontia) or accompanying other features as part of a syndrome [6–9]. In patients with non-syndromic oligodontia, the congenitally missing teeth are the only apparent clinical finding [10], and studies show that these cases are rare, with a prevalence ranging from 0.16% to 0.36%, depending on the population studied [11]. However, some patients can display mild phenotypes or the clinical expression of phenotypes other than oligodontia can only appear late in life, and the misdiagnosis of non-syndromic oligodontia can occur [12]. Oligodontia is a significant and integral diagnostic feature for many syndromes, but other concurrent dental anomalies may occur, including microdontia, short roots, dental impactions, delayed formation of teeth, delayed eruption, transposition of canines and premolars, taurodontism, and enamel hypoplasia [2,13,14]. Patients with oligodontia present serious deficiencies in their quality of life due to decreased masticatory function, phonetic ability and maxillofacial aesthetics [15,16]. As oligodontia can be a clinical manifestation of a large and heterogeneous group of syndromes with multiple signs and symptoms, this systematic review aims to summarize the available literature concerning the presence of oligodontia in syndromes, emphasizing the phenotype and the molecular etiology, in order to assist in diagnosis and management of the patients.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Protocol and Registration

This systematic review was performed according to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) checklist [17], and its protocol was recorded in the International Prospective Register of Systematic Reviews (PROSPERO) database, under registration number CRD42020190814.

2.2. Eligibility Criteria

The PICOS approach was used to formulate the question for this study: P—participants (syndromic patients with oligodontia), I—intervention (none), C—comparison (none), O—outcomes (frequency and types of syndromes associated with oligodontia, pattern of missing teeth and frequency of pathogenic variants), S—study (case reports and case series).

The criteria for the exclusion of articles were: (1) Non-syndromic cases; (2) Studies that did not report or report unclear dental X-rays; (3) Studies that did not report representative cases of oligodontia; (4) Studies that report cases of hypodontia or anodontia; (5) Studies that do not include pattern of tooth agenesis; (6) Reviews, letters, conference abstract, personal opinions, and in vitro or in vivo animal studies; (7) Full-text copy not available; (8) Duplicated data from other study; (9) Articles that were not in Roman alphabet; (10) Studies with absence of clinical information.

2.3. Study Selection

The selection process of the studies was performed using an individual search in each bibliographic database: PubMed, Scopus, Lilacs, Web of science, Livivo and EMBASE. A gray literature search was conducted using Google Scholar and ProQuest. The research was performed in December 2022. However, a second literature search was performed using the same terms on August 8th, 2021, retrieving articles published between January and August 2023. The search strategy can be assessed in Supplementary Table S1. The duplicate references were removed by reference manager software (EndNote X7, Thomson Reuters). All references were transferred and worked on the Rayyan (Rayyan, Qatar Computing Research Institute, Qatar Foundation), developed specifically to expedite the initial screening of abstracts and titles [18].

The course of the research was established in two distinct phases. In the first phase, two authors (NLC and KKMR) independently read all titles and abstracts, taking into account the eligibility criteria initially defined. In cases of no consensus, a third author (ACA) was involved, who

determined which articles would be included in the second phase. The second phase was carried out by the same authors, who performed a full-text reading of the screened articles. Disagreements were solved by discussion involving the third author (ACA).

2.4. Data Collection Process and Data Items

The data collection process was carried out by the two authors (NLC and KKMR) who selected the articles initially in the two phases, in which the necessary and relevant information of each study was collected. The information was checked by a third author (ACA).

2.5. Risk of Bias within Studies

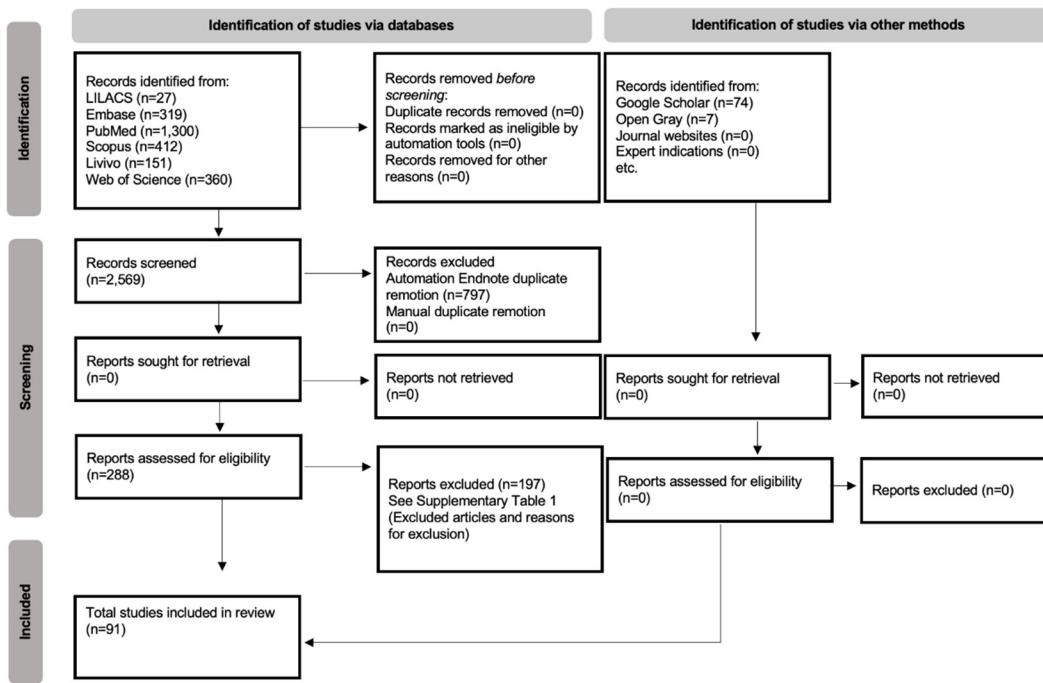
The risk-of-bias was assessed by two authors (NLC and KKMR) using the Joanna Briggs Institute Critical Appraisal Tools for Studies Reporting Prevalence Data for Use in Systematic Reviews—referred to Case Reports [19]. The authors scored each item as “yes,” “no,” “unclear,” or “not applicable” when assessing the quality of each included study. Decisions about scoring were discussed by all reviewers, a study was characterized as having a high risk of bias when it reached a “yes” score of up to 49%, moderate when 50% to 69%, and low when >70%.

2.6. Interaction Analysis

The functional relevance of identified genes was further investigated with STRING, 11.0 version (search tool for the retrieval of interacting genes, <http://string-db.org>), which provides a P value after applying false discovery rate for correction of multiple testing.

3. Results

The searches conducted in the 6 databases resulted in 2,569 scientific articles. After removal of duplicates, 1,772 articles were totalled. The gray literature search resulted in 81 articles. After reading the titles and abstracts in the first phase, 288 articles were selected for the next phase. At the end of reading the full articles (second phase), 91 articles were included for the qualitative synthesis. The studies excluded in the second phase are listed in the Supplementary Table S2. The review process is schematized in a flowchart depicted on Figure 1.



Adapted from: Page MJ, McKenzie JE, Bossuyt PM, Boutron I, Hoffmann TC, Mulrow CD, et al. The PRISMA 2020 statement: an updated guideline for reporting systematic reviews. *BMJ* 2021;372:n71. doi: 10.1136/bmj.n71. For more information, visit: <http://www.prisma-statement.org/>

Figure 1. Flow diagram of literature search and selection criteria adapted from Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA).

The main data of each selected article are summarized in Supplementary Table S3. Together, the studies reported 106 patients, ages ranging from 3 to 75 years old, with oligodontia as a clinical feature of different types of syndromes. Risk-of-bias assessment in each study is reported in Supplementary Table S4.

The syndromes more frequently identified, in decreasing order, were hypohidrotic ectodermal dysplasia (HED) (24 patients in 22 studies), Axenfeld-Rieger syndrome (ARS) (8 patients in 5 studies), Witkop's syndrome (6 patients in 5 studies), Ellis-van Creveld syndrome (EVCS) (5 patients in 4 studies), blepharochelodontic syndrome (BCDS) (5 patients in 2 studies), oculo-facio-cardio-dental syndrome (4 patients in 4 studies), incontinentia pigmenti (3 patients in 3 studies), Hallermann-Streiff syndrome (3 patients in 3 studies), polycystic ovarian syndrome (3 patients in 2 studies), Down syndrome (2 patients in 2 studies), Carvajal syndrome (2 patients in 2 studies), Carpenter syndrome (2 patients in 2 studies) and Kabuki syndrome (2 patients in 2 studies). Other uncommon syndromes listed in Supplementary Table S3 were reported in 1 patient each.

Out of 106 patients, 10 patients were affected by oligodontia in both primary and permanent dentitions, 3 had oligodontia only in the primary dentition, and in the other cases, oligodontia was exclusively observed in the permanent dentition (Table 1). The number of missing teeth ranged from 6 to 13 in the primary dentition and from 6 to 30 in the permanent dentition. In the deciduous dentition, the absence of the first molars, lateral and central incisors was observed in 76.9% of patients, and the second molars and canines were absent in 61.5% of patients (Table 1). In the permanent dentition, lateral incisors (76.2% of patients), first molars (75.5% of patients), central incisors (69.7% of patients), premolars (66% of patients), third molars (60% of patients) and second molars (40% of patients) were the more affected teeth (Table 1).

The genetic profile of the different studies is summarized in Supplementary Table S3. HED was the most found syndrome and the X-linked mode of inheritance was the most common for this syndrome. The most reported mode of inheritance for oculo-facio-cardio-dental syndrome, incontinentia pigmenti and Christ-Siemens-Touraine syndrome was X-linked. The mode of inheritance for Carvajal syndrome, Noonan syndrome, ARS, Witkop's syndrome, Apert syndrome, BCDS and Kabuki syndrome was the autosomal dominant, whereas microcephalic osteodysplastic primordial dwarfism type II, tricho-odonto-onycho-dermal dysplasia, Rothmund-Thomson syndrome and EVCS were reported under autosomal recessive (Supplementary Table S3).

Eight studies reported mutations in *EDA* or *WNT10A* in HED, Christ-Siemens-Touraine syndrome, tricho-odonto-onycho-dermal dysplasia and odonto-onycho-dermal dysplasia. *MSX1* was related twice in cases of Witkop's syndrome. Others studies have reported mutations in *DSP* (Carvajal/Naxos syndrome), *PITX2* (ARS), *PCNT* (microcephalic osteofysplastic dwarfism type 2), *TBCE* (Sanjad-Sakati syndrome), *EDARADD* (HED), *LEF1* (HED), *AXIN2* (HED), *PTCH1* (basal cell nevus syndrome), *FZD7* (del(2q32) syndrome), *EVC2* (EVCS), *NPHP1* (juvenile nephronophytosis), *SRCAP* (Floating-Harbor syndrome), *BCOR* (oculo-facio-cardio-dental syndrome), *IKBKG* (incontinentia pigmenti), and *FGFR2* (Beare-Stevenson syndrome). Together, these genes participate of 227 biological processes and 20 pathways. The most significant biological processes were odontogenesis (GO:0042476, $P = 9.55e-11$), animal organ morphogenesis (GO:0009887, $P = 6.51e-07$) and epithelium development (GO:0060429, $P = 2.90e-06$), and the pathways were of basal cell carcinoma (hsa05217, $P = 2.34e-07$), pathways in cancer (hsa05200, $P = 6.77e-06$) and pathways of the gastric cancer (hsa05226, $P = 6.77e-06$) (Supplementary Table S5 and S6). The networks included 18 predicted interactions (Figure 2).

Table 1. Manifestations of oligodontia in primary and permanent dentition of patients in the included articles number of studies (91).

Author (year)	Syndrome (OMIM)	Dentition	Number of teeth	Affected teeth
Abdulla et al. (2019)	Christ-Siemens-Touraine syndrome (#305100)	Permanent	18	12,14, 15, 18, 22, 24, 25, 28, 31, 32, 34, 35, 38, 41, 42, 44, 45, 48
Abs, Raes and Vercruyse (1994)	Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome (#194200)	Permanent	15	14, 15, 17, 18, 12, 22, 25, 27, 28, 35, 37, 38, 45, 47, 48
Aditya, Lele and Aditya (2011)	Fahr's syndrome (#213600)	Permanent	16	11,14, 15, 17, 21, 35, 36, 37, 38, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48
Agarwal et al. (2014)	Polycystic ovarian syndrome (#184700)	Permanent	26	12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 25, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 41, 42, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48
Aminabadi, Ebrahii and Oskouei (2010)	Ellis-van Creveld syndrome (#225500)	Primary / Permanent	6 / 9	52, 53, 63, 71, 73, 83 / 12, 31, 32, 33, 35, 41, 42, 43, 45
Ann Drum et al. (1985)	Rieger syndrome (#602482)	Permanent	19	11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 21, 22, 23, 26, 28, 31, 32, 33, 36, 41, 42, 45, 46
Ardila and Álvarez-Martínez (2022)	Axenfeld-Rieger syndrome (#601499, #180500, #602482)	Permanent	22	16, 15, 14, 13, 12, 21, 22, 25, 26, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46
Arora et al. (2016)	Witkop syndrome (#189500)	Permanent	26	11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 37, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44, 47, 48
Awadh et al. (2016)	Blepharocheilodontic syndrome (#119580)	Primary / Permanent	1. 13 / 17 2. 6 / 7 3. 8 / 14 4. 7 / 17	1. 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 73, 74, 84 / 11, 12, 13, 14, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 33, 34, 35, 41, 43, 44, 45 2. 51, 52, 73, 74, 75, 84 / 11, 12, 13, 21, 22, 34, 44 3. 51, 52, 54, 61, 62, 64, 74, 84 / 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 33, 34, 43, 44 4. 54, 62, 63, 64, 71, 81, 84 / 11, 12, 14, 15, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 31, 32, 33, 35, 41, 42, 43, 44
Barber et al. (2012)	Carvajal syndrome (#605676)	Permanent	13	15, 17, 18, 24, 25, 27, 28, 35, 37, 38, 45, 47, 48
Bekiesinska-Figatowska et al. (2010)	Hypomyelination, hypogonadotropic hypogonadism, hypodontia syndrome (4H) (#612440)	Permanent	8	12, 15, 22, 24, 34, 35, 44, 45
Bergendal (2001)	Hypohidrotic ectodermal dysplasia (#305100)	Permanent	16	13, 14, 15, 24, 25, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45
Bergendal et al. (2015)	X-linked hypohidrotic ectodermal dysplasia (#300291)	Permanent	28	11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48
Bildik et al. (2012)	Hypohidrotic ectodermal dysplasia (#305100)	Permanent	30	12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48
Blankenstein et al. (2001)	Carpenter syndrome (#201000)	Permanent	22	12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 22, 24, 25, 27, 28, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37, 38, 41, 42, 44, 45, 47, 48
Cagetti et al. (2019)	Progeroid syndrome (#612289)	Permanent	26	11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48
Callanan, Anand and Sheehy (2006)	Sotos syndrome (#117550)	Permanent	15	12, 14, 15, 18, 22, 24, 25, 28, 34, 35, 37, 38, 44, 45, 48
Carvalho et al. (2013)	Hypohidrotic ectodermal dysplasia (#305100)	Permanent	1.26	1.13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, 32, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 41, 42, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48
Chalabreysse et al. (2011)	Carvajal / Naxos syndrome (#605676/ #601214)		2. 17	2.12, 15, 16, 18, 22, 23, 28, 31, 32, 34, 35, 38, 41, 42, 44, 45, 48
Cho, Lee and Drummond (2004)	Incontinentia pigmenti (#308300)	Permanent	15	12, 15, 17, 18, 22, 25, 27, 28, 35, 37, 38, 44, 45, 47, 48
		Permanent	6	15, 21, 25, 31, 44, 45

Clauss et al. (2014)	Hypohidrotic ectodermal dysplasia (#305100)	Permanent	17	13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 34, 35, 38, 43, 44, 45, 48
Cogulu et al. (2007)	Kabuki syndrome (#147920)	Permanent	10	12, 15, 22, 25, 31, 32, 35, 41, 42, 45
Cogulu and Ertugrul (2007)	Oculo-facio-cardio-dental syndrome (#300166)	Permanent	18	13, 14, 15, 17, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 32, 33, 35, 37, 42, 43, 44, 45, 47
				1.51, 53, 55, 61, 63, 64, 65, 71, 73, 75, 81, 85
Costa et al. (2022)	Zika virus syndrome (#448237)	Primary / Permanent	12 24	13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 22, 24, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 47, 48
Dall'oca et al. (2008)	X-linked hypohidrotic ectodermal dysplasia (#189500)	Primary	17	51, 52, 53, 55, 61, 62, 63, 65, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 81, 82, 83, 85
Devadas et al. (2005)	Witkop syndrome (#189500)	Permanent	10	12, 22, 23, 25, 31, 32, 33, 41, 42, 43
Downing and Welbury (1992)	Tricho-rhino-phalangeal syndrome (#190350)	Permanent	11	12, 16, 18, 22, 26, 31, 32, 38, 41, 42, 48
Dunbar et al. (2015)	Axenfeld-Rieger syndrome (#601499, #180500, #602482)	Permanent	12	11, 12, 13, 18, 21, 22, 28, 32, 35, 38, 45, 48
Emral and Akcam (2009)	Noonan syndrome	Permanent	10	12, 18, 22, 27, 34, 35, 38, 45, 46, 48
			1. 14	1. 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 33, 38, 43, 48
			2. 13	2.11, 13, 18, 21, 23, 28, 31, 38, 41, 42, 43, 45, 48
Fan et al. (2019)	Axenfeld-Rieger syndrome (#601499, #180500, #602482)	Primary / Permanent	3. 26	3.11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 48
			4. 9 / 23	4.51, 52, 54, 55, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65 / 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 31, 33, 35, 38, 41, 45, 47, 48
Ghosh et al. (2019)	Microcephalic osteodysplastic primordial dwarfism type II (#210720)	Permanent	18	12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 22, 24, 28, 31, 33, 34, 35, 38, 43, 44, 45, 48
Gupta (2012)	Oromandibular limb hypogenesis syndrome type I B (#103300)	Permanent	12	12, 15, 22, 25, 31, 32, 35, 38, 41, 42, 45, 48
Hanemann, Carvalho and Franco (2010)	Ellis-van Creveld syndrome (#225500)	Permanent	6	31, 32, 38, 41, 42, 48
Hasan et al. (2019)	Hypohidrotic ectodermal dysplasia (#305100)	Permanent	15	11, 12, 21, 22, 23, 31, 32, 35, 36, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46
Hassona et al. (2018)	Sanjad-Sakati syndrome (#241410)	Permanent	18	12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25, 28, 33, 34, 35, 38, 42, 44, 45, 48
Hattab, AL-Khateeb and Mansour (1996)	Grebe chondrodysplasia (#184700)	Permanent	29	11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 47, 48
			1.30	1. 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48
Hattab and Angmar-Mansson (1997)	Polycystic ovarian syndrome (#184700)	Permanent	2.26	2.12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 41, 42, 44, 45, 46, 48
Hegde et al. (2011)	Ellis van Creveld syndrome (#225500)	Permanent	9	12, 18, 22, 28, 31, 38, 41, 42, 48,
Hingston et al. (2006)	Hurler's syndrome (#607014)	Permanent	12	14, 15, 18, 24, 25, 28, 34, 35, 38, 44, 45, 48
Hodges and Harley (1999)	Witkop syndrome (#189500)	Permanent	6	18, 28, 31, 38, 41, 48
Jain et al. (2010)	Hypohidrotic ectodermal dysplasia (#305100)	Permanent	25	12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 31, 32, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 48

Jain et al. (2012)	Ectodermal dysplasia (#305100)	Permanent	29	13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48
Kale et al. (2013)	Achondroplasia (#100800)	Permanent	18	12, 14, 16, 22, 24, 26, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 47
			1.26	1. 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47
Kantaputra et al. (2013)	Tricho-Odonto-Onycho-Dermal dysplasia (#275980)	Permanent	2.25	2.12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 37, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48
			3.16	3. 12, 14, 16, 18, 22, 27, 28, 31, 32, 35, 38, 41, 42, 45, 46, 48
Kaul and Redd (2008)	Hypohidrotic ectodermal dysplasia (#305100)	Permanent	28	12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 47, 48
Kawamoto, Motohashi and Ohyama (2004)	Oculo-Facio-Cardio-Dental syndrome (#300166)	Permanent	11	12, 15, 18, 24, 28, 31, 32, 35, 38, 41, 48
Khabour et al. (2010)	X-linked hypohidrotic ectodermal dysplasia (#305100)	Permanent	17	12, 14, 15, 17, 22, 24, 25, 27, 32, 34, 35, 36, 37, 42, 44, 45, 47
Khurana et al. (2010)	Witkop syndrome (#189500)	Permanent	15	11, 12, 17, 18, 21, 22, 27, 28, 31, 35, 37, 38, 44, 47, 48
King, Tong and Ling (1994)	Ectrodactyly-ectodermal dysplasia-clefting syndrome (#305100)	Permanent	9	15, 18, 22, 25, 28, 38, 41, 45, 48
Kinyo et al. (2013)	Christ-Siemens-Touraine syndrome (#305100)	Permanent	27	11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47
Kishore et al. (2014)	Hypohidrotic Ectodermal dysplasia (#305100)	Permanent	28	18, 17, 16, 15, 14, 13, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 38, 37, 36, 35, 34, 33, 32, 31, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48
Kobayashi et al. (2022)	Hypohidrotic Ectodermal dysplasia (#305100)	Permanent	29	11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48
Kozma, Chong and Meck (1999)	Wolf-Hirschhorn syndrome (# 194190)	Permanent	13	14, 18, 24, 28, 31, 34, 35, 37, 38, 41, 44, 45, 48
Kramer, Baethge and Tschernitschek, (2005)	Hypohidrotic Ectodermal dysplasia (#305100)	Primary /Permanent	1. 18 / 29	52, 53, 54, 55, 62, 63, 64, 65, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85 / 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47
Kroigard et al. (2016)	Odonto-onycho-dermal dysplasia (#257980)	Permanent	30	12, 13, 14, 15, 16 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48
Levy et al. (2020)	Hypohidrotic Ectodermal dysplasia (#305100)	Primary / Permanent	1. 7 / 23	1. 55, 53, 63, 65, 73, 74, 75 / 18, 17, 16, 15, 14, 13, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 38, 35, 34, 33, 32, 31, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48
Liedén et al. (2016)	Glass syndrome (#612313)	Permanent	2. 23	2. 18, 16, 15, 14, 12, 22, 24, 27, 28, 38, 37, 35, 34, 33, 32, 31, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 47, 48
			10	11, 12, 13, 14, 24, 25, 33, 35, 43, 44
Lin et al. (2022)	Blepharocheliodontic syndrome (#119580)	Permanent	1.14	1. 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45
Martinho et al. (2019)	Oculo-facio-cardio-dental syndrome (#300166)	Permanent	2.19	2. 11, 12, 13, 15, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 13, 15, 16, 22, 24, 26, 27, 36, 37, 46.
Marvin et al. (2011)	Hypohidrotic Ectodermal dysplasia (#305100)	Permanent	15	13, 17, 18, 23, 27, 28, 31, 32, 37, 38, 41, 42, 43, 47, 48
Murata et al. (2019)	Basal cell nevus syndrome (#109400)	Permanent	14	12, 14, 15, 18, 22, 24, 25, 28, 31, 34, 35, 38, 45, 48

O'Dwyer and Jones (2005)	Axenfeld-Rieger syndrome (# 180500)	Permanent	15	11, 12, 13, 18, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 32, 35, 38, 42, 45, 48
Pipa Vallejo et al. (2008)	Hypohidrotic Ectodermal dysplasia (#305100)	Primary	15	54, 53, 51, 63, 64, 65, 75, 74, 73, 72, 71, 81, 83, 84, 85
Rathi et al. (2001)	Rothmund-Thomson syndrome (# 618625)	Permanent	8	18, 17, 27, 28, 38, 37, 47, 48
Reiche et al. (2014)	Down Syndrome (#190685)	Permanent	10	12, 17, 18, 22, 27, 28, 38, 31, 41, 48
Retna and Sockalingnam (2013)	Blepharochelodontic syndrome (#119580)	Permanent	24	11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 21, 22, 24, 25, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 48
Richieri-Costa, Pirolo and Cohen (1993)	Carpenter Syndrome (#201000)	Permanent	30	12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48
Rifai et al. (2010)	del(2q32) Syndrome (NR)	Permanent	6	18, 24, 25, 28, 38, 48
Rizos, Negrón and Sermann (1998)	Mobius Syndrome (# 157900)	Permanent	11	11, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 32, 38, 48
Rock and McLellan (2016)	Klinefelter Syndrome (NR)	Permanent	15	12, 14, 15, 18, 22, 24, 25, 28, 34, 35, 37, 38, 44, 45, 48
Shen et al. (2011)	Ellis-van Creveld syndrome (#225500)	Permanent	8	12, 13, 22, 23, 31, 32, 41, 42
Siddiqui et al. (2021)	Axenfeld-Rieger syndrome (#180500)	Permanent	18	11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 25, 28, 31, 32, 35, 38, 41, 42, 48
Sikora et al. (2006)	Juvenile nephronophtisis (# 256100)	Permanent	16	12, 17, 18, 23, 26, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 37, 38, 41, 42, 47, 48
Singh et al. (2017)	Floating-Harbor syndrome (#136140)	Permanent	8	12, 22, 23, 31, 32, 33, 41, 43
Subramaniam and Neeraja (2008)	Witkop syndrome (#189500)	Permanent	28	12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48
Suda et al. (2010)	Hypohidrotic ectodermal dysplasia (#305100)	Permanent	31	11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 47, 48
Sujatha and Namita (2008)	Oculo-facio-cardio-dental syndrome (#300166)	Permanent	6	31, 32, 41, 42, 44, 48
Sultan, Juneja and Bhaskar (2020)	Down syndrome (#190685)	Permanent	8	12, 22, 31, 35, 37, 41, 42, 45
Sun et al. (2019)	Incontinentia Pigmenti (#136140)	Permanent	15	15, 17, 18, 22, 24, 25, 28, 34, 35, 37, 38, 44, 45, 46, 48
Talasila et al. (2017)	Acromelia-oligodontia syndrome (NR)	Permanent	7	31, 33, 35, 36, 37, 38, 41
Tanboga et al. (2001)	Incontinentia pigmenti (#308300)	Primary/ Permanent	8 / 17	52, 62, 64, 72, 75, 81, 82, 85 / 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 32, 35, 37, 41, 42, 45, 47
Tanboga, Pince and Duzdar (1992)	Hypohidrotic Ectodermal dysplasia (#305100)	Permanent	8	11, 16, 21, 26, 32, 36, 42, 46
Tao et al. (2010)	Beare-Stevenson syndrome (#123790)	Permanent	9	15, 25, 31, 32, 35, 41, 42, 44, 45
Tosun and Sener (2006)	Apert syndrome (#101200)	Primary/ Permanent	8 / 8	52, 55, 62, 65, 72, 75, 82, 85 / 14, 15, 24, 25, 34, 35, 44, 45
Tuna et al. (2008)	Hallermann Streiff Syndrome (#234100)	Permanent	16	12, 14, 15, 22, 24, 25, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45
Tuna et al. (2009)	Hallermann-Streiff syndrome (#234100)	Permanent	16	12, 14, 15, 22, 24, 25, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45
Tuna et al. (2012)	Kabuki syndrome (#147920)	Permanent	10	12, 14, 22, 24, 32, 33, 35, 42, 43, 45
Vasudevan and Sinha (2023)	Odonto-onychia-dermal-dysplasia (# 257980)	Permanent	28	11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 47, 48
Waldron et al. (2010)	Axenfeld-Rieger syndrome (#180500)	Permanent	14	11, 12, 13, 21, 22, 23, 31, 32, 33, 35, 41, 42, 43, 45
Yin, Yen and Bian (2013)	Ectodermal dysplasia (#305100)	Permanent	30	12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48
Zidane and Alloussi (2022)	Dubowitz syndrome (#223370)	Permanent	15	15, 14, 13, 12, 22, 23, 24, 25, 35, 34, 32, 31, 41, 44 e 45

NR: Not reported.

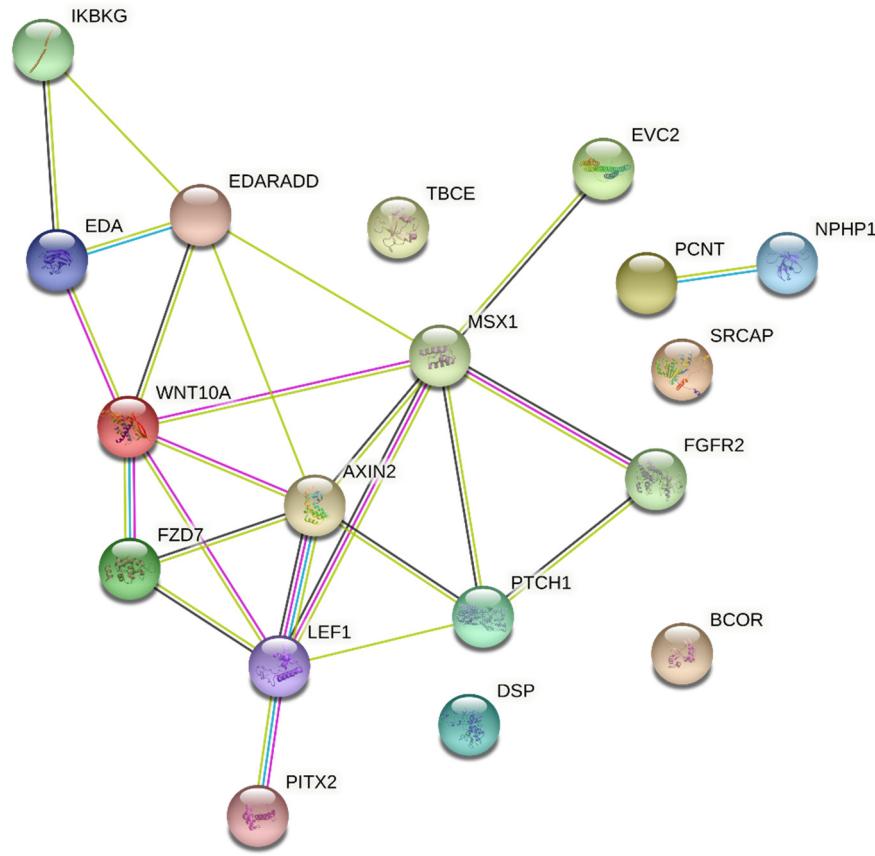


Figure 2. Protein-protein interaction network with the genes associated with syndromes with oligodontia. Two nodes of interactions, involving *AXIN2*, *EDA*, *EDARADD*, *EVC2*, *FGFR2*, *FZD7*, *IKBKG*, *LEF1*, *MSX1*, *PTCH1*, *PITX2* and *WNT10A* ($P < 1.0e-16$), and between *PCNT* and *NPHP1* ($P = 0.02$), were identified. Different colors represent different levels of evidence of connection between proteins. Light blue represents curated databases, purple experimental evidence, green gene neighborhood, red gene fusions, blue gene co-occurrence, light green evidence from text mining, black co-expression, and violet protein homology. This analysis had an average confidence score of 0.601, suggesting a low rate for false-positive interactions.

4. Discussion

Within the realm of syndromes characterized by oligodontia, questions arise regarding the consistency of this phenotype across cases, its varying expressiveness, diagnostic utility, and the specific teeth most affected. This review sought to comprehensively address these queries by collating pertinent information from a diverse array of syndromes exhibiting oligodontia within their clinical spectrum. The exploration commenced by surveying an extensive expanse of literature, transcending temporal constraints, leading to the identification of 49 distinct syndromes cataloged within the Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man. Among these, HED emerged as the most frequent. The hallmark trifecta of HED, involving hair, teeth and sweat gland anomalies [22], was evident in the affected patients. The spectrum of dental agenesis in HED spans mainly oligodontia, but reports of hypodontia and even anodontia is found in the literature, with a predilection for the mandible. This remarkable variability necessitates close attention for correct diagnosis [23,24]. Notably, the distinctive conical shape of anterior teeth, when present, offers a diagnostic clue. Furthermore, the potential confluence of maxillary retrusion, sagittal jaw underdevelopment, jaw displacement, and craniofacial alterations underlines the complex interplay of factors characterizing this syndrome [23,25].

Among the most common syndromes identified in the systematic review was EVCS, an autosomal recessive skeletal dysplasia that encompasses an intriguing spectrum of oral

manifestations. Alongside limb abnormalities, the oral phenotype includes occlusion irregularities, labiogingival adhesions, hypertrophied labiogingival frenulum, accessory frenula, serrated incisal margins, dental transposition, diastemas, conical teeth, enamel hypoplasia, and congenital absence of several teeth [26,27]. The propensity for premature eruption or exfoliation accentuates the complexity of dental anomalies associated with EVCS. Oculo-facio-cardio-dental syndrome, a rare multi-systemic anomaly more prevalent in females, demonstrates an intricate interplay between congenital cataracts, facial dysmorphisms, dental anomalies like radiculomegaly and oligodontia, and congenital heart defects [28,29]. Witkop syndrome is an uncommon genetic disorder inherited in an autosomal dominant pattern, attributed to mutations occurring in *MSX1*. This gene holds significance in the formation of the teeth, nails, hair follicles and various other anatomical structures of ectoderma origin. Consequently, the syndrome is distinguished by two primary features: dental agenesis, mainly oligodontia, but the absence of up to 5 teeths (hypodontia) is also reported, and nail dysplasia. Conical-shaped teeth and teeth with narrow crowns are common dental features of Witkop syndrome [30]. ARS is a condition characterized by ocular dysgenesis affecting the anterior segment, along with concurrent systemic anomalies involving the teeth, heart, craniofacial structure and abdominal wall. It is frequently associated with a 6p25 distal microdeletion. However, diverse manifestations of this syndrome may also show connections with other genetic loci like 4q25 or 13q14. Various genes, including *FOXC1*, *FOXC2*, and *FKHL7*, are implicated in the context of ARS [31,32]. BCDS is an uncommon autosomal dominant disorder characterized by congenital facial clefting, oligodontia, euryblepharon, lagophthalmos, and ectropion. While the extent of its expression can differ, the prevalent features often include cleft lip and/or palate, ectropion and lagophthalmos [33].

Interrogating the consistency of oligodontia across syndromic cases is of paramount importance. The range of dental presentations, spanning from hypodontia to anodontia, underscores the variable expressiveness within these syndromes. Consequently, the manifestation of oligodontia should be viewed as a continuum instead of an absolute trait. This variable expressivity poses challenges in diagnosis and underscores the importance of considering broader phenotypic traits in conjunction with dental anomalies. Regarding the most affected teeth, patterns emerged from the collated data. In deciduous dentition, absence of first molars, lateral and central incisors was observed in the majority of patients, with second molars and canines affected in a significant proportion. In permanent dentition, lateral incisors, first molars, central incisors, premolars, third molars, and second molars exhibited the highest susceptibility to oligodontia. These patterns may offer clues for diagnosis and genetic assessment. However, as previously reported, there are several mechanisms that are involved in tooth development and other tissues of the body, establishing very heterogeneous phenotypes in affected individuals. Thus, radiographic and molecular diagnosis may be necessary. Analysis of dental radiographs is an important part of the diagnostic process in daily clinical practice, and interpretation by an expert includes teeth detection and numbering [34–36]. In the reading of the articles included, panoramic radiographs with poor quality were evidenced, which can affect the diagnosis and consequent interpretation of the case report. The detailed radiographic report of the observed alterations was also absent in most studies.

In some situations, in the differential diagnosis process, sequencing analysis is useful, and further exploration of the identified mutations can assist in the interpretation of the phenotypes (genotype-phenotype correlation). The important role of genetics has been increasingly recognized in recent years with regard to the understanding of dental anomalies such as tooth agenesis [37]. However, many of the included studies in this systematic review did not perform molecular analysis. Only 13 studies [38,51] performed genetic analysis and reported the genetic variants associated with the syndromes. These genes can be grouped in two groups. These genes can be grouped in two major groups. One with crucial roles at multiple stages of tooth development, skin and sweat glands (*EDA*, *EDARADD*, *WNT10a*, *MSX1*, *DSP*, *LEF1*, *EVC2*, *PITX2*, *FGFR2*, and *AXIN2*), which are involved in the signal pathway essential for ectodermal structure development [52,53], and the other with genes that intermedia the function and developmental cellular (*PCNT*, *TBCE*, *PTCH1*, *TBCE*, *FZD7*, *SRCAP*, *NPHP1*, *IKBKG*, and *BCOR*). Interestingly, some of the identified genes are also associated with non-syndromic oligodontia, but in these cases, the mutations cause reduced expression, decreased

receptor-binding affinity or altered signaling-intensity of mutated protein, whereas the mutations associated with syndromic oligodontia are characterized by a more intense impact on protein function [54].

The teeth in patients with oligodontia frequently are affected by dental anomalies, including reduction in size, assuming a conoid shape, and delayed eruption [52–58], indicating a control by similar genetic mechanisms [55]. Corroborating with previous literature [37], our findings demonstrated that the permanent dentition is more frequently affected by oligodontia than primary dentition. Out of 106 patients, 68 patients showed bilateral agenesis of maxillary lateral incisors and 13 patients showed unilateral absence of the second mandibular premolar. Clinical studies have described that bilateral agenesis of the maxillary lateral incisors occurred more often than unilateral agenesis, and unilateral agenesis of the second mandibular premolar is more common than bilateral one [59].

The study has limitations, which are the result of use of different terminology to define oligodontia, including severe hypodontia or partial anodontia. The unavailability of radiographies to the correct diagnosis of oligodontia was alarming, reducing the sample size. This study was also limited by the fact that many studies did not perform genetic tests, precluding a more complete phenotype-genotype correlation. In addition, cases of very rare disorders may not be reported in the literature, limiting our map for syndrome with oligodontia.

5. Conclusion

Phenotype identification can reduce uncertainty in the diagnosis when the phenotype is highly predictive for a specific syndrome. Based on this review, during the diagnosis process of patients with oligodontia, clinicians and geneticists should be aware of the most common syndromes with oligodontia as clinical sign, including HED, ARS, Witkop's syndrome, EVCS, BCDS and oculo-facio-cardio-dental syndrome.

Supplementary Materials: The following supporting information can be downloaded at the website of this paper posted on Preprints.org.

Author Contributions: N. L. Castilho: Data extraction, methodology, writing-original draft. K. K. M. Resende: Data extraction, methodology, writing-original draft. J. A. dos Santos: Data extraction, methodology. R. A. Machado: Data extraction, methodology, supervision, writing-original draft. R. D. Coletta: Conceptualization, supervision, writing-review and editing. E. N. S. Guerra: Conceptualization, methodology. A. C. Acevedo: Conceptualization, data extraction, methodology. H. Martelli-Junior: Conceptualization, project administration, validation, data curation, writing-review and editing.

Funding: The study was supported by the Minas Gerais State Research Foundation-FAPEMIG, Brazil, National Council for Scientific and Technological Development—CNPq, Brazil and the Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel, CAPES, Brazil.

Institutional Review Board Statement: Not applicable.

Informed Consent Statement: Not applicable.

Data Availability Statement: Not applicable.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict interest.

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