

## ***The First Permanent Molar: The Precious Victim***

The first permanent molar is the largest and strongest tooth in the dental arch that mainly plays a major role in mastication. It also helps in maintaining the vertical dimension of the face, the continuity within the dental arch and has a vital role in esthetics by making cheeks appear full and vibrant.

The relative timing of coronal development associated with the first permanent molar makes them susceptible to enamel defects, while their eruption at around six years of age makes them vulnerable to the development of dental caries.

Management of this important tooth from prevention to extraction will be discussed in the lecture.