



DENTAL CHARTING SYSTEMS

In each quadrant teeth have names as follows:

- 1 central incisor
- 2 lateral incisor
- 3 canine ('eye tooth')
- 4 first premolar
- 5 second premolar
- 6 first molar
- 7 second molar
- 8 third molar ('wisdom tooth')

In the UK the traditional style in hand-written records is to use a grid system.

8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 / 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 / 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

- 1 means the patient's upper right central incisor
- 4 means the patient's upper left first premolar
- 6 means the patient's lower left first molar
- 8 means the patient's lower right third molar

A similar scheme is used for deciduous teeth ('baby teeth') using letters instead of numbers:

In 1999 the *British Dental Journal* decided to change the system because of difficulties of converting the grid format to their website. Instead the position on the grid is written in shorthand:

- 1 becomes UR1
- 4 becomes UL4
- 6 becomes LL4
- 8 becomes LR8

There is another system used by the International Dental Federation. Again the teeth are split into four quadrants and a separate number given to each tooth:

18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 / 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28
48 47 46 45 44 43 42 41 / 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38