It has been proposed that tooth agenesis and cancer development share common molecular pathways. Members of the Vieira Lab performed a cross-sectional study to investigate the epidemiological and molecular association between tooth agenesis and self-reported family history of cancer. The role of genes involved in dental development that have been implicated in tumorigenesis were also investigated.

Individuals with tooth agenesis had an increased risk of having a family history of cancer. Individuals who carried a DNA variant in FGFR2 presented higher risk for having premolar agenesis.

The article that resulted from this study, Tooth Agenesis Association with Self-reported Family History of Cancer (PubMed), was published in the Journal of Dental Research and featured on MDLinx.com.