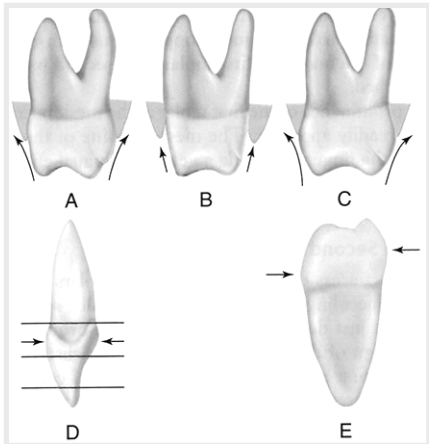


## In the middle third

\*\*\* From the cervical line, the crown bulges outward reaching the height of contour at the middle third. It then slopes more sharply **inward toward the apex of the mesial lingual** or distal lingual cusp tip. **In contrast on the buccal**, the height of contour is much lower and is reached almost immediately after the cervical line in the cervical or gingival third of the tooth.

The location of the **crest of curvature** (*height of contour*) on the facial (*or buccal*) and lingual surfaces of the crowns of teeth can be seen from the mesial and distal aspects, and are usually in one of two places:

1. In the **cervical third** of the crown on:
  - Facial (*or buccal*) surfaces of all anterior and posterior teeth (*maxillary and mandibular*)
  - Lingual surfaces of all anterior teeth (*maxillary and mandibular*) on the cingulum
2. In the **middle third** of the crown on:
  - Lingual surface of maxillary and mandibular posterior teeth



Schematic drawings of curvatures labially, buccally, and lingually. **A**, Normal curvatures as found on **maxillary** molar. Arrow shows theoretical path of food during mastication. **B**, If molar shows little or no curvature, there is possibility for food impaction. **C**, Molar with curvature in excess of normal. The significance of such an excess in curvature has not been firmly established. **D**, Normal cervical curvatures as found on maxillary incisors. The crests of curvature are opposite each other labiolingually. **E**, Curvatures as found on mandibular posterior teeth.

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