Mark Cavendish has been forced to delay the start of his 2010 season because of an ongoing dental problem.

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But his hopes may be hampered as Team HTC-Zenith Columbia announced that he will not begin racing until Ruta del Sol on 17 February due to the dental problem which has limited his training.

“We want to take all precautions and ensure that Mark has fully recovered before he starts racing,” said the team's director, Fabio S秉chi. “We also want to give him the opportunity to perform at his best, and this means ensuring that he has adequate preparation.”

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Mark Cavendish criticising the British with the help of the French media – the spiritual successor to the green jersey – card a stage at the three Grand Tours, in France, Italy and Spain.

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