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Case Report

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Anterior Open Bite Closure using Ortodontic Mini-Implants

Camelia Szuhanek^{1*}, Adelina Popa¹

1. Faculty Of Dental Medicine, University Of Medicine And Pharmacy "Victor Babeş" Timişoara, România, Piața Eftimie Murgu nr. 2, Timișoara, România

Abstract

This case report describes the treatment of a dento-alveolar protrusion with anterior open bite. The 21-year old patient had a convex profile , class I dental malocclusion , anterior open bite of 4 mm and presented tongue thrust. The treatment plan was to insert two mini-implants for premolar intrusion along with the straight –wire fixed appliances. Tongue therapy was performed by myofunctional exercises. Using the absolute anchorage we were able to achieve our goals in a predictable manner without the use of orthognathic surgery or patient compliance . After the tongue thrust habit was removed we are confident that this is a stable result .

Corresponding Authors: Camelia Szuhanek, Faculty Of Dental Medicine, University Of Medicine And Pharmacy "Victor Babeş" Timişoara, România, Piața Eftimie Murgu nr. 2, Timişoara, România, Email: cameliaszuhanek@umft.ro
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Introduction

Orthodontic mini-implants are now widely used to provide absolute anchorage because of their versatility, minimal invasiveness and low cost .[1]

Difficult orthodontic cases , like molar intrusion, molar uprighting , anterior open bite treatment with molar intrusion, anterior deep bite treatment with incisal intrusion, leveling of transverse tipping of the occlusal plane, asymmetric expansion, space closure are corrected without the need of extraction, orthognathic surgery or patient compliance[3].

New mechanics based on absolute anchorage have expanded the variety of ortho-mecanoterapy . [4] The most important change is that it becomes possible to intrude posterior teeth bilaterally with mechanotherapy alone[5].

Diagnosis and Etiology

The patient, a 21-year old woman , had a convex profile , class I dental malocclusion ,anterior open bite of 4 mm . She was a mouth breather and presented tongue thrust. Her chief complain was the anterior open bite .(Figure 1)



Figure 1. Pretreatment intraoral photography

The cephalometric analysis indicated that she had a skeletal class II profile ,proclination of the maxillary central incisor ,high mandibular plane angle that contributed to the class II skeletal relationship and increased lower facial height.



The panoramic radiograph showed bilateral mandibular third molars. The level of alveolar bone crest was within the normal range. (Figure 3)



Figure 3. Pretreatment panoramic X-ray Theories to explain the cause of anterior open bite: digital habits , airway obstruction, tongue posture, unfavourable growth, tongue trust .[2]

The patient presented tongue thrust and mouth breathing. She was reffered for myofunctional exercises for tongue thrusting before orthodontic mechanics began.

Treatment objectives

- To maintain class I molar and canine relationship with ideal overjet and overbite while maintaining facial esthetics
- Avoid extrusion of the molars and clockwise rotation of the mandible during treatment





• Close the anterior open bite

Treatment Options

Anterior open-bite treatment alternative:

- Extrusion or eruption of anterior teeth. Several authors reported the side- effects of this orthodontic movement: root resorption, less stability and esthetics [7]
- Intrusion of the lateral teeth- Studies reported different methods to intrude the posterior teeth (posterior bite blocks, high- pull headgear , miniimplants)[8]
- Orthognathic surgical impaction of the posterior maxilla to allow the mandible to autorotate counter clockwise and close the bite.
- 4. Extraction of the first premolars in order to close the bite and reduce the overjet.
- 5. Surgical removal of all third molars was indicated before appliance removal.

The patient refused orthognathic surgery and premolar extractions and elected the less invasive orthodontic treatment .

After obtaining the informed consent the orthodontic treatment began and 0,22 Roth straight-wire fixed appliances were bonded. After leveling and aligning, during upper arch expansion, we took impressions and made intermediate study models. We noticed that palatal cusps of the upper premolars could not be intruded by classic mechanics. We decided to intrude first and second bicuspids to resolve the open bite. Skeletal anchorage was indicated and two orthodontic mini-implants were inserted on the palatal side between the premolars.

Procedure to Insert the Mini-Implants

Anesthesia of the implant site. Root parallelism and position was checked on the panoramic x-ray. The implant site was marked with a periodontal probe . The screw had 1,6 mm diameter and 8 mm length. Contraangle screw driver and the self-tapping method was used.

Anatomic Considerations

In the palatal area the soft tissue is thicker than in other areas[12]. It is important to measure the soft tissue thickness to determine the ideal length of the mini -implant.

Complications

Mini–implant failure arises from the possible complications : root/periodontal damage, damage to neurovascular tissues, mini-implant fracture, soft tissue problems, biomechanical side-effects. [14-17].

In this case the patient had no complications

Treatment

The optimal force for intrusion reported by several authors are : 20 g of force for the anterior teeth-Burstone[9], Gianelly and Goldman 15-50 g force [10] .For the molar intrusion, the initial force recommended by Umemori et al is 500 g [11], Melson and Fiorelly used 50 g buccolingualy to intrude maxillary molars.[13]. Reitan and Rygh [6] reported that intrusion is more stable than extrusion

In this case the implants were loaded after one week with a 100-150 force using an elastic chain.

The intrusion rate obtained was 0,5-1 mm per month without root resorbtion or vitality problems.

Tongue therapy was performed.

Before the finishing stage, a panoramic x-ray was taken. The third molars were removed .(Figure 6)

Results

After treatment the patient had a normal overbite and overjet and a stable occlusion, a class I canine and molar relationship.







Figure 4. Intraoral photography at the start of the treatment.



Figure 5. Intraoral photography after the mini -implant activation



Figure 6. Panoramic X-ray before the removal of the third molars.



Figure 7. Clinical situation after intrusion with orthodontic implants.





Conclusion

Open bites can be closed without orthognathic surgery by using mini-implants as skeletal anchorage to intrude posterior teeth.

Good stability is expected with the intrusion of the lateral teeth and no extrusion of the anterior .

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