



Oral Health Division
Ministry of Health Malaysia

ORTHODONTIC MANAGEMENT OF DEVELOPMENTALLY MISSING INCISORS

2012

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STATEMENT OF INTENT

The clinical practice guidelines are meant to be a guide for clinical practice, based on the best available evidence at the time of development. Adherence to these guidelines may not necessarily ensure the best outcome in every case. Every healthcare provider is responsible for the management of his/her unique patient based on the clinical picture presented by the patient and the management options available locally.

REVIEW OF THE GUIDELINES

These guidelines were first issued in 2005 and revised in 2012. The next review of these guidelines will be in 2016 or sooner if new evidence becomes available.

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<http://www.moh.gov.my>

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LEVELS OF EVIDENCE

LEVEL	STUDY DESIGN
I	Evidence obtained from at least one properly randomized controlled trial (RCT)
II-1	Evidence obtained from well-designed controlled trials without randomization
II-2	Evidence obtained from well-designed cohort or case-control analytic studies, preferably from more than one center or research group
II-3	Evidence obtained from multiple time series with or without the intervention. Dramatic results in uncontrolled experiments (such as the results of the introduction of penicillin treatment in the 1940s) could also be regarded as this type of evidence
III	Opinions of respected authorities, based on clinical experience; descriptive studies or reports of expert committees.

Source: Adapted from U.S./Canadian Preventive Services Task Force

GRADES OF RECOMMENDATION

A	At least one meta analysis, systematic review, or RCT, or evidence rated as good and directly applicable to the target population
B	Evidence from well conducted clinical trials, directly applicable to the target population, and demonstrating overall consistency of results; or evidence extrapolated from meta analysis, systematic review, or RCT
C	Evidence from expert committee reports, or opinions and /or clinical experiences of respected authorities; indicates absence of directly applicable clinical studies of good quality

Source: Modified from the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN)

Note: The grades of recommendation relates to the strength of the evidence on which the recommendation is based. It does not reflect the clinical importance of the recommendation

RATIONALE AND PROCESS OF GUIDELINES DEVELOPMENT

RATIONALE

Patients presenting with developmentally missing incisors generally suffer from poor dental/facial appearance and function. This condition is often complicated by dental anomalies associated with hypodontia such as impacted teeth, microdontia, hypodontia of posterior teeth, delayed eruption and taurodontism. It is a common problem seen by the general dentist and is usually referred to the orthodontist. Although there are essentially two distinct approaches to managing this problem; that is space closure or opening, these patients often manifest with many underlying skeletal and dental problems, each with their own pros and cons, which oftentimes poses a dilemma for the individual operator. A multi-disciplinary team approach for a holistic management of this condition is therefore recommended and it is important that each member in the team understands his/her role in the overall treatment plan and complement each other in their procedures at each stage for the best treatment outcome.

PROCESS

Evidence was obtained by systematic review of current literature on congenitally/developmentally missing incisors using the usual electronic search engines PubMed/Medline; Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews; Scopus and Ovid. Local non-indexed journals were hand searched. Literature search was from 1970 to 2011. The term 'congenitally missing teeth' is widely used in literature although the correct terminology currently used is 'developmentally missing teeth' since permanent tooth formation is a developmental process during growth. Relevant key words and terms or MeSH terms were used either singly or in various combinations to retrieve the relevant articles: "hypodontia", "maxillary" "missing teeth", "incisor", "mandibular", "management", "unerupted" "principles", "orthodontic", "restorative", interceptive", "congenitally missing teeth", "developmental missing teeth", "developmental

absence of teeth”, “developmental formation”, “developmental agenesis”, “congenitally missing incisors”, “agenesis of permanent teeth”, “transplantation”, “hypodontia and restoration”, “hypodontia and bridge”, “autotransplantation”, “implants”, “osseointegrated implants” and “dental implants”.

This CPG was drawn up by a core working committee of orthodontists, a general dental practitioner (GDP) and a dental nurse appointed by the Ministry of Health, Malaysia. The draft was reviewed by a panel of local review members and external reviewers comprising orthodontists, paediatric dental specialists, restorative dental specialists and periodontists and edited by the working committee before being posted on the Ministry of Health, Malaysia website for comments and feedbacks. All statements and recommendations formulated were agreed by the working committee and where evidence was insufficient, recommendations were made based on consensus of the group. These guidelines were presented to the Technical Advisory Committee for CPG for approval.

The levels of evidence and grading of recommendations used in this CPG were adapted from the U.S./Canadian Preventive Services Task Force and the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN).

OBJECTIVES

To assist healthcare professionals in:

1. Interceptive management in children with signs of developing malocclusion and to preserve the alveolar bone for future prostheses
2. Decision to open or close space in the dentition
3. Timely and appropriate management of tooth transplants or prostheses
4. Orthodontic preparation for cases needing or opening.

CLINICAL QUESTIONS

1. What is the etiology and prevalence of developmentally missing incisors?
2. What are the appropriate diagnostic tools to aid treatment planning?
3. What are the interceptive options for developmentally missing incisors?
4. What are the benefits of interventions?
5. What are the treatment options for missing incisors in adolescents and adults?
6. What are the indications and contraindications of space closure and opening?
7. What are the long-term aesthetic and functional outcomes of space-closed orthodontic cases and space-opened restorative cases?

TARGET POPULATION

Inclusion criteria

- Children and adults with developmentally missing permanent incisors

Exclusion criteria

- Cleft lip and palate and craniofacial syndromes
- Developmentally missing permanent teeth other than incisors

TARGET GROUP/USER

These guidelines are applicable to all healthcare professionals involved in the management of oral health and dentition of patients.

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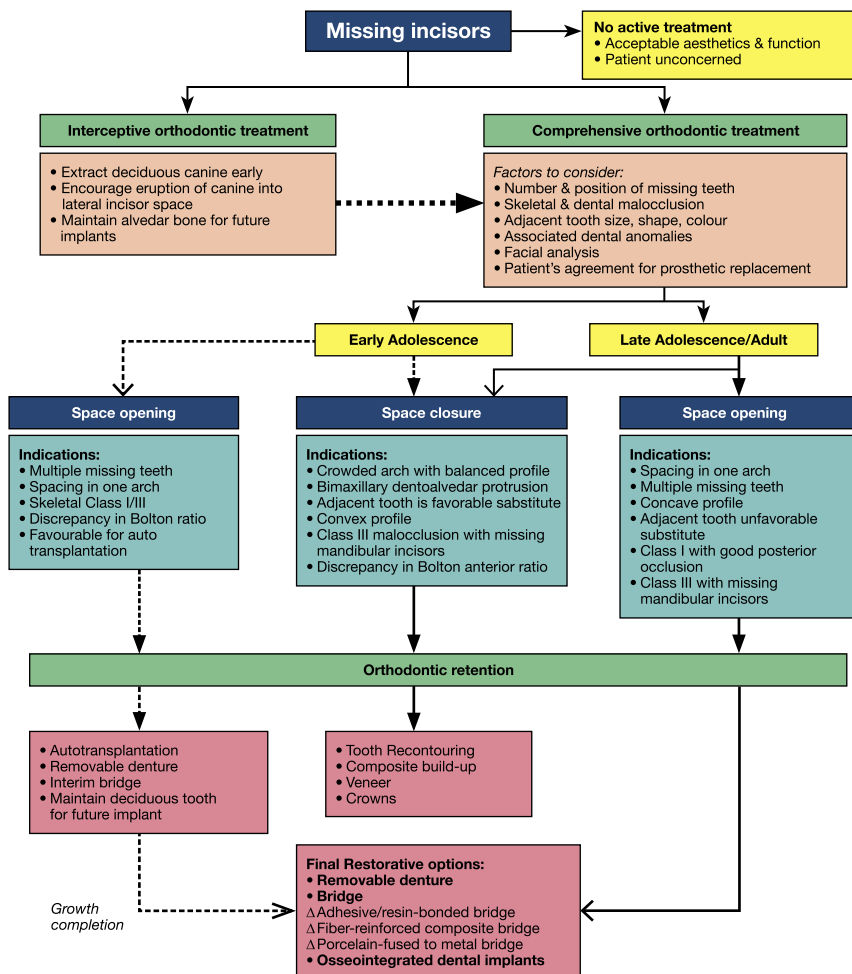
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ALGORITHM FOR ORTHODONTIC MANAGEMENT OF DEVELOPMENTALLY MISSING INCISORS



GLOSSARY

% LAFH	Percentage of Lower Anterior Face Height
Autosomal dominant	Genetic inheritance expressed as a disease
Autotransplantation of tooth	Transplantation of a tooth from one site to another in the same person
Bolton's ratio of anterior teeth	The sum of the mesio-distal widths of the 6 lower anterior teeth over the sum of the mesio-distal widths of the 6 upper anterior teeth. The normal ratio is 0.78
Bonded retainer	A passive wire bonded to the lingual/palatal side of teeth to retain the corrected position of teeth
Bone atrophy	Decrease in bone mass
Bridge	A fixed artificial replacement for a missing tooth or teeth supported by natural teeth or roots adjacent to the space
Contralateral tooth	Tooth of the same series on the opposite side in the same arch
Crown torque	The labio-lingual inclination of the crown
Crown	A type of dental restoration which completely caps or cover a tooth or dental implant
Dental anomalies	Any deviation from normal of the dentition in form, function or position
Ectodermal dysplasia	A syndrome with abnormal development of skin, hair, teeth, nails and sweat glands
Ectopic tooth	Abnormal position of the tooth in the jaw
Golden proportions	Is a two-dimensional measurement of aesthetics and is applied dentally when viewing arrangement of maxillary anterior teeth in a frontal photograph. Each tooth beginning with the central incisor should be 61.8% larger than the tooth distal to it.
Hypodontia	The developmental absence of one or more teeth either in the primary or permanent teeth, excluding third molars
Impacted teeth	Teeth which are prevented from normal eruption

Interceptive orthodontics	Timely management to prevent a developing malocclusion from getting worse
Inter-coronal width	Measurement of the width between adjacent crowns
Inter-radicular width	Measurement of the width between adjacent roots
Lateral cephalogram	Standardised lateral skull radiograph
Microdontia	Teeth which are smaller than the normal series
MMPA	Maxillary-mandibular Plane angle
Oligodontia	Developmental absence of 6 or more teeth
Osseointegrated implants/ Dental implants/ tooth implants	Artificial tooth that is anchored in the jaw bone to replace a missing natural tooth
Prognathism	Abnormal protrusion of the jaw
Removable retainer	A passive removable appliance to maintain the corrected position of teeth
Retrognathism	Abnormal retrusion of the jaw
Sagittal-skeletal	A plane pertaining to an imaginary line extending from the front to the back in the midline of the skull dividing it into right and left parts
Taurodontism	Group of disorders affecting the Temporo-mandibular joint
Tooth Agenesis	Developmental absence of tooth
Tooth Prosthesis	An artificial tooth used to replace a missing natural tooth
Transposition of teeth	Inter-changed position of teeth from its normal position in the series of the normal dentition
Transverse-skeletal	A plane pertaining to an imaginary horizontal line extending from right to left side of the skull and at right angles to the sagittal plane
Veneers	A thin layer of restorative material placed over a tooth surface. It may be made of porcelain or composite.
Vertical-skeletal	Vertical dimensions of the skull in the front and side profile

1. INTRODUCTION

Hypodontia is defined as the developmental absence of one or more teeth either in the primary or permanent dentition, excluding third molars.^{1,level III} Patients with hypodontia especially developmentally missing incisors may present in varying degrees of severity prompting them to seek treatment for improvement in dental/facial aesthetic and functions. Patients commonly complain of ‘gaps in their front teeth’, non-eruption of permanent incisors following exfoliation of deciduous incisors, disharmony of front tooth size or an unattractive smile. It is quite a common problem often initially seen by the GDP and usually referred to the orthodontist for management.

Missing incisors can have a major impact on dental and facial aesthetics and often may affect the self-esteem and social well being of the individual. Usually this condition can be detected at an early age through early diagnosis by the GDP. Hypodontia is often associated with other dental anomalies and early and/or interceptive management can reduce the development of more severe malocclusion and preserve dental structures necessary for restorative procedures.^{2-3,level III}

These guidelines aim to provide evidence-based recommendations to help healthcare providers in the management of patients with developmentally missing incisors. As with all orthodontic care pathways, patient care should be individually tailored, based on sound clinical judgement, and clinical competency plays an important role in the decision-making process.

2. AETIOLOGY

2.1 Genetic Factors

Hypodontia usually has a genetic basis and often a high proportion of affected individuals have a family history of hypodontia or associated dental anomalies.^{1,level III} Mutation in transcription factors MSX1, PAX9 and AXIN 2 have been identified in families with an autosomal dominant oligodontia.^{2,level III}

Normally, teeth which are 'end of series' are more commonly absent i.e. lateral incisors, second premolars and third molars.^{4,level II-2} Hypodontia is also often seen in patients presenting with syndromes such as ectodermal dysplasia, Down's syndrome and hemifacial microsomia and in non syndromic conditions such as cleft lip and palate. However, familial hypodontia is complex and multifactorial; influenced by a combination of gene function, environmental interaction and developmental timing.^{4,level II-2}

2.2 Enviromental Factors

Environmental factors which cause arrested tooth development may include factors that cause failure of tooth bud cell proliferation from the dental lamina. This may be due to infection (eg. rubella, osteomyelitis), trauma in the dental region such as fractures, surgical procedures on the jaw and extraction of the preceding primary tooth, drugs (eg. thalidomide), chemotherapy or radiotherapy at a young age.^{5,level I;2,6,level III}

3. PREVALENCE

The prevalence of hypodontia in the primary dentition is about 0.5% and range from 3.5-6.5% in the permanent dentition in Caucasians, with females outnumbering males by a ratio of 3:2.^{1,3,7,level III} Maxillary lateral incisors are more commonly missing than mandibular incisors in Caucasians.^{1,8,level III} However, mandibular incisors were found to be the most commonly absent teeth in Chinese and Japanese populations and was more prevalent than missing maxillary lateral incisors.^{3,level III} Similar findings have been reported in local Malaysian children where the prevalence of missing mandibular incisors was the highest among developmentally missing teeth (32-49%).^{9,10,11,level III}

KEY MESSAGE

- Aetiology is multifactorial and usually has a genetic basis with familial inheritance
- Mandibular incisors were the most commonly missing teeth in local and Asian populations

4. DIAGNOSIS

4.1 Medical, Dental, Family and Social History

Developmentally missing incisor teeth can be diagnosed early; 3 - 4 years old for missing primary teeth and as early as 6 years old for missing permanent incisors.^{2, level II-2} A diagnostic protocol with meticulous and consistent method of evaluation for patients with hypodontia will assist the clinician in the decision-making process.^{12, level III}

A thorough medical, dental, family and social history should first be taken to confirm the developmental absence of permanent teeth and to determine the possible aetiology. Family history is important as hypodontia usually has a genetic basis with some family members affected, although familial hypodontia is complex. However, aetiology is usually multi-factorial and often influenced by a combination of gene function, environmental interaction and developmental timing.^{4, level II-2}

Surveys have shown that a very high proportion of children with severe hypodontia have reported functional and psychosocial impacts as a result of developmentally missing teeth.^{13-14, level III-3} Excessive spacing and compromised aesthetics becomes a focus for bullying in school and may lead to psychosocial implications in children, such as depression, loneliness, anxiety, low self-esteem and underachievement. Effective counselling will help the victims and the family overcome this and prepare themselves for the complex management of this condition.^{15, level III}

4.2 Examination

4.2.1 Clinical Examination

Most studies investigating dentofacial form in patients with hypodontia have found distinct sagittal-skeletal, vertical-skeletal and dento-alveolar characteristics. These deviations were more apparent in patients with both anterior and posterior teeth missing and increased in severity with increasing number of missing teeth. Anterior hypodontia has a significant effect on the Anterior- Posterior (more retrusive) and vertical skeletal (reduced) relationships as well as the interincisal angle (increased) with

increasing severity of the hypodontia. Therefore, a careful examination of the clinical features must be performed to obtain all information necessary for proper treatment planning.^{16-18, level II-1}

KEY MESSAGE

- Missing primary and permanent incisors can be detected early
- Severe hypodontia may have psychosocial impact on children

4.2.1.1 Extra-oral examination Facial Analysis to:

- Identify adverse skeletal patterns in sagittal, transverse and vertical dimensions

With increasing severity of hypodontia, the sagittal skeletal relationship tends towards a Class III pattern due to a combination of a decrease in maxillary and mandibular prognathism and mandibular length in relation to the anterior cranial base.^{16, level II-1} A significant increase in chin thickness also contributes to the above.^{19, level II-2} The vertical skeletal pattern in severe hypodontia shows a decreased Maxilla-to-Mandibular Plane Angle (MMPA) and reduced % Lower Anterior Face Height (LAFH).^{16, level II-1} In cases where there are missing mandibular incisors, the mandibular symphysis growth and morphology may be affected due to disturbance in tongue-lip pressure and lack of lingual support.^{20, level II-2}

- Identify the soft tissue pattern ^{12, level III}

A convex soft tissue profile is usually an indication for space closure; whereas space opening in the maxillary arch is favoured in patients with a concave profile. When the patient has a high smile line, colour matching and reshaping of the canine replacing the missing incisor as well as labial gingival contours and canine root prominence become more important. If an obtuse nasolabial angle is present, excessive upper incisor retraction during space closure should be avoided.

- Assess and discuss with the patient the dental aesthetics and orthodontic options that may improve the patient's overall aesthetics and self-esteem

Aesthetic values may not be the same between different clinicians and patients.^{21,level II-3} The Bolton ratio of 0.78 between upper and lower anterior teeth and the Golden proportion of 0.618 in the arrangement of the maxillary teeth from the frontal view may be used as a guide when determining the amount of space needed for replacement of maxillary lateral incisors although this may not necessarily produce the best smile aesthetics.^{22,level II-2} A careful aesthetic assessment of the incisors in terms of incisor display, gingival levels and the dental midline as well as contour and shade of the anterior teeth has to be given due consideration prior to planning for orthodontic-restorative treatment.^{23,level II-3}

4.2.1.2 Intra-oral examination to:^{12,level III;23,level II-3;24,level III}

- Assess overall oral health status
- Evaluate current and potential dentition status
- Identify occlusal/dental disharmonies
- Determine the functional status of patient's occlusion i.e. factors associated with malocclusion, deleterious habits and current signs of Temporomandibular Joint Dysfunction (TMJD)
- Identify potential periodontal problems such as pocketing
- Examine if sufficient space is available for replacement of missing incisors
- Determine if sufficient tooth structure exists for restoration of microdont incisors

4.2.1.3 Identify associated dental anomalies.^{25,level III}

- Other permanent teeth can be microdont, conical or tapered.^{25,17,level III}
- Delayed formation and eruption of permanent teeth.^{27,level III}
- Maxillary lateral incisors may be microdont or absent.^{28,level 1}
- Maxillary canines may follow an ectopic path Eruption.^{29,level II-2}
- Maxillary canine-first premolar transposition.^{30,level II-2}
- Mandibular lateral incisor-canine transposition.^{31,level II-2}

- Palatally impacted maxillary canines.^{32,level II-2;33,level I}
- Short roots of teeth - tooth agenesis was found in about 46% of individuals with short roots of some permanent teeth especially the maxillary central incisors and premolars.^{34,level III}
- Taurodontism has been reported to be higher in patients with hypodontia.^{35,level II-2; 36,level II-1}
- Rotation of the lateral incisor on the contralateral side have been associated with agenesis of unilateral lateral incisor.^{37,level II-I}
- The lack of teeth is often associated with a developmental failure of alveolar bone with apparent 'wasting' of the ridge and lack of posterior support as well as smaller arch dimensions.^{1,level III,38,level II-2}

RECOMMENDATION

- Detailed clinical assessment should be done with focus on skeletal patterns in the sagittal, transverse and skeletal dimensions
- Aesthetic assessment of maxillary incisors should be done at rest and in function
- Use 'Bolton ratio of anterior teeth' and 'Golden Proportions' measurement as a quantifiable guide to aesthetic values of anterior teeth
- Identify associated dental anomalies and its relation to the presenting malocclusion

Grade B

4.2.2 Radiographic Investigations

The Oral Panoramic Tomograph (OPT) is essential for diagnosis of missing permanent teeth in patients who are 6 years or older. This is generally unsuitable for much younger children because of the length of the exposure and the need for the patient to keep still.^{39,level III} It is also a useful tool for general survey of the dentition and associated dental anomalies.^{41,42,level III} These radiographs can be supplemented with intra-oral radiographs for a closer view of the intended areas.^{43,44,level III;45,level II-2}

- Lateral cephalogram radiographs are taken for analysis of skeletal, dental and soft tissue facial components. A suitable long-term treatment plan requires knowledge of the presenting and developing skeletal pattern and this can be obtained through cephalometric analysis.^{16,level II-1}
- Other diagnostic investigations such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and CT scan for soft and hard tissue imaging are rarely used routinely but may be useful only if indicated by the individual patient's clinical presentation.^{45,level II-2} Cone Beam CT (3-D) may be used for assessment of bone levels/width prior to placement of implants.

4.2.3 Pretreatment diagnostic records

Photographs and study casts are usually needed for proper patient assessment and for documentation purposes.^{45,level II-2} Photos of the patient in relaxed and smiling postures can help the clinician identify critical aspects of their teeth. These procedures are helpful in planning intrusion or extrusion of teeth for more aesthetic gingival margins. Diagnostic orthodontic wax-ups of study models are very useful to evaluate different treatment options and aid treatment planning.^{12,level III}

RECOMMENDATION

Essential pretreatment diagnostic records should include

- Panoramic radiograph
- Study casts
- Photographs

Grade B

Orthodontic wax-up of study casts can be used as a diagnostic aid

Grade C

5. MANAGEMENT

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

KEY MESSAGE

Three main treatment modalities:

- No active treatment
- Interceptive treatment
- Comprehensive treatment

5.1 No Active Treatment

No treatment is necessary if there is no malocclusion associated with a missing incisor and the patient is happy with his/her dentition. Treatment is not recommended if the patient is unwilling to commit to lengthy and costly treatment.^{46,47,level III}

5.2 Interceptive Treatment (mixed dentition)

5.2.1 Role of GDP

- **Early detection of missing teeth**

The GDP's responsibility in early detection of developmentally missing incisors, associated dental anomalies and developing malocclusion is important for early planning of interceptive and comprehensive treatment with the respective specialists.^{5,44,45,48,level III}

In patients with missing primary incisors, it is recommended that they be monitored until the succeeding permanent incisor is confirmed present by 6 years of age through radiographs.

- **Counseling of patient and family**

The GDP can prepare the patient and family by outlining the dental, medical, psycho-social, functional, financial and prolonged treatment time implications especially in a severe hypodontia case. Effective counseling can help the family accept multi-disciplinary treatment and improve patient satisfaction.^{45,49,level III}

- **Liaison between patient and multi-disciplinary team**

The GDP can provide restorative treatment in straightforward cases, continuing care and maintenance of the treatment outcome following interim or comprehensive treatment. Continuance is important for long term success and patient satisfaction.^{5,47,50,level III}

5.2.2 Extraction of primary canine to prevent/intercept associated impaction of maxillary canine.^{30,32-34,44,levels I-III}

Studies have shown strong association of hypodontia with maxillary canine impaction. Although there is inadequate evidence to support routine extraction of primary maxillary canines to facilitate eruption of impacted permanent canines in children, early extraction of the deciduous canine has been advocated in many studies.^{51,level I}

5.2.3 Early extraction of primary incisor or canine to allow eruption of canine into maxillary lateral incisor position: This may be done:

- **To maintain the alveolar bone for future implant placement.**^{5,52-54,level III}

The canine maintains the width and depth of the alveolar bone for insertion of future dental implants. When the canine is then orthodontically moved distally to create space for the implants, the width and depth of the alveolar bone in the lateral incisor region is maintained. This may then negate the need for alveolar bone graft prior to implant insertion.

- **For natural space closure**

If space closure is planned, then allowing the canine to erupt and drift into the lateral incisor position will help to reduce the amount of space to be closed orthodontically in the future.^{46,55,56,level III}

5.2.4 Retention of the primary incisor/canine

If the primary incisor and/or canine is functional and there is no interceptive treatment required as explained above, these teeth may be retained to help preserve the alveolar bone for orthodontic treatment and future placement of implants.^{57,level III}

RECOMMENDATION

Interceptive management

- Permanent maxillary canines with potential impaction or transposition should be detected early with radiographs
- Deciduous canines may be extracted early to facilitate eruption of palatally ectopic maxillary canines

Grade A

- Maxillary canines should be allowed to erupt into missing lateral incisor position for natural space closure or preservation of alveolar bone for future prosthesis
- The GDP can play an important role in early detection of missing teeth, counseling of family and liaising with multi-disciplinary team

Grade C

5.3 Comprehensive Treatment

A multi-disciplinary approach involving orthodontist, restorative dental specialist, paediatric dental specialist, periodontist, oral surgeon and GDP is ideal in patients who require inter-disciplinary management.^{5,42,45,53,57-61,level III} Without a team approach, orthodontists tend to manage hypodontia based on their own practice environment and experience.^{62,level II-2} Judging of smile aesthetics in space-closed and space-opened cases vary between and within groups of dentists, orthodontists, dental specialists and layman.^{21,level II-2} Thus, treatment decisions based on perceived finished outcomes may be misleading as both options can produce excellent results.^{47,53,63,level III,64,level I}

KEY MESSAGE

- Multi-disciplinary or inter-disciplinary management is necessary for best treatment outcomes
- Good prosthodontic/restorative work is essential for comprehensive management

5.3.1 Early Adolescence

The decision to open or close space should be made early and restorative procedures for space opening explained to the patient. Spaces may be restored by autotransplantation of premolars, removable dentures or interim bridge until growth completion of the patient when final restorations are done. Space closure may or may not involve fixed appliance treatment.

5.3.1.1 Autotransplantation.^{65,level III; 66,67,level II-2}

This can be recommended if the criteria allows for donor premolars to be donated to the receiver site especially in cases with multiple missing maxillary incisors. In growing children, the transplanted tooth will not only maintain growth and development of the alveolar ridge, but also provide a permanent solution to agenesis of teeth.^{68,level III} Successfully transplanted premolars appear to continue erupting and aesthetics is good when restored with porcelain veneer crowns or full porcelain crowns. Autotransplanted premolars may act as tooth support for bridges in large-span spaces.^{65,level III}

- **Criteria for autotransplantation:** ^{66,67,69,level II-2}
 - Timing of root development of the donor premolar is important.
 - Roots of the donor premolar should be less than 3/4 formed (Incomplete and complete root formation show 96% and 15 % pulpal healing respectively)
 - The diameter of the apical foramen of the graft
 - Skill of the surgeon
 - Internal cooling of burs and no extra-alveolar storage of the donor tooth prior to transplantation appears to increase the chance for pulpal healing and limit the risk of root resorption.
 - Adequate space in the arch.^{65,level III}
 - No 'jiggling' contacts between donor tooth and opposing teeth during post-surgery. ^{66,67,69,level II-2}

RECOMMENDATION

- Autotransplantation of premolars to missing incisors site should be done if
 - Donor premolar roots are less than 3/4 formed
 - Multiple incisors are missing
 - The procedure is handled by skilled surgeons
- The autotransplanted premolars should be restored with veneers or full crowns

Grade B

5.3.1.2 Space opening.

- **Space opening** ^{53,level III}

Is usually not recommended before the age of 13 years so as to prevent relapse and progression of alveolar bone atrophy. If implants are planned as the final restoration, the timing for implantation should be close to the end of orthodontic treatment.^{70,level II-2} In the meantime the alveolar bone may be preserved by retaining the primary tooth.

- **Restorative options**

- Conventional porcelain fused to metal bridge.
This is usually not recommended in young patients because of the large amount of tooth reduction required in teeth with young pulps. In young patients, anterior spaces due to missing incisors may be closed and redistributed to the posterior regions for implant placement later.
- The posterior space may then be restored with interim bridges or bonded retainers while waiting for osseointegrated implants.^{63,level III,71,level II-2}
- Orthodontic Retention before implant placement.^{53,71,level III}
Removable retainers in addition to bonded orthodontic retainers have been recommended after orthodontic opening of space for future implants. Space loss and relapse of the adjacent teeth may result in a second phase of orthodontic treatment prior to implant placement.
- Interim prosthesis before implant placement.^{56,63,71,level III}
The interim prosthesis may be a removable or fixed partial denture. Removable partial dentures which are to be worn for a few years

before implant placement may result in relapse of the dentition or loss of space.^{56,63,level III} Bonded orthodontic retainers or fixed resin-bonded or laboratory composite with fibre-reinforcement bridges are recommended for longer interim periods to reduce root approximation.

- Conventional porcelain-fused to metal bridge or tooth implant. This should only be placed after growth completion. Removable partial dentures or bridges may be the final long-term restoration in patients who cannot afford or do not want osseointegrated dental implants in the long term.^{73,74,level II-2;75,level I,44,76,level III}

5.3.1.3 Space closure.

Space closure^{61,level III} may involve grinding or modification of the adjacent teeth, composite build-up or porcelain laminate veneer crown for the long-term.^{44,61,level III} Orthodontic retention is important for maintenance of space closure.

RECOMMENDATION

- Orthodontic tooth positioning should be tailored to the requirements of prosthetic replacement by removable partial dentures, conventional bridges or dental implants
Grade C
- Removable or fixed Interim prosthetic replacements are recommended for space maintenance and stability while waiting for final prostheses
Grade C
- Bonded orthodontic retainers are recommended for longer interim periods before implant placement
Grade C
- Final prostheses like conventional bridges and implants should be done when facial growth is complete
Grade A

5.3.2 Late Adolescence/Adult

The decision to open or close spaces is similar to that in early adolescence and the ultimate goal is excellent aesthetics, periodontal health and function in the long term.^{64,level}

Rationale for space closure

- Most evident advantage is the permanence and biological compatibility of the finished dentition. The patient has his/her own natural dentition with no need for prosthetic replacement.^{61,level III,77,level II-2}
- There is better contour of the interdental gingival papilla around natural teeth.^{77,level II-2}
- There is natural aging of the dentition and gingival margins as the patient matures and grows.^{77,level II-2}
- Functional occlusion with group-protected function. There is no evidence of temporomandibular dysfunction (TMD) with space closure and group function of teeth.^{61,78,level III,79,level II-2}
- With carefully detailed orthodontic treatment in combination with modern aesthetic dental materials and tooth restorations using bonded ceramics, resin composites and tooth whitening, orthodontic space closure is an attractive option.^{53,61,level III}

Rationale for space opening.^{47,63,78,level III}

- Complete space closure is not possible with multiple missing incisors
- Adjacent teeth not favourable as incisor replacements
- Patient profile and malocclusion does not favor space closure in terms of general periodontal health or aesthetics.^{53,level III}
- With modern prosthetic tooth replacements such as porcelain fused to metal bridges, adhesive or resin-bonded bridges and osseointegrated tooth implants, long-term functional and aesthetic results can be expected. Any of these three options can produce predictable excellent results but the primary consideration is to select the least invasive option that satisfies the aesthetics and functional objectives of the patient.^{61,level III}

5.3.2.1 Indications for space closure or opening

Factors favouring space closure : 47,55,61,78,level III,77,level II-2

I. If missing maxillary incisor

- Missing unilateral incisor
- Tendency towards crowding in a patient with a balanced profile and normal inclination of anterior teeth
- Canines and premolars of similar size and color
- Bimaxillary dentoalveolar protrusion
- Class II malocclusion

II. If missing mandibular incisor

- Class I malocclusion with marked mandibular crowding or protrusion and missing mandibular incisor
- Missing single mandibular incisor
- Class III malocclusion
- Posterior crowding in the mandibular arch
- Discrepancy in Bolton anterior ratio (microdont maxillary lateral incisor)

Factors favouring space opening: 53,63,80,level III

I. If missing maxillary incisor

- Normal intercuspation of posterior teeth in a well-aligned Class I malocclusion
- Pronounced spacing of the maxillary dentition and normal mandibular dentition
- Class III malocclusion with retrognathic profile
- Large size difference between canine and first premolar.
- Large size difference between canine and contralateral lateral incisor

II. If missing mandibular incisor

- Missing two or more mandibular incisors
- Class II malocclusion with well aligned or spaced mandibular dentition

- Discrepancy in Bolton anterior ratio (large maxillary incisors or small mandibular incisors)
- Normal intercuspation of posterior teeth in a well-aligned Class I malocclusion

5.3.2.2 Points to consider in orthodontic space closure

Attention to certain key points during tooth movement can produce excellent finishing and function.^{47,56,60,61,78,81,82,level III}

- Marginal level of the relocated canine and first premolar
If the canine is replacing the lateral incisor, then extrusion of the canine and intrusion of the first premolar will result in a more natural marginal gingival contour with the contralateral teeth.
- Crown torque of relocated canine and first premolar
- Monitor centerlines and symmetry during unilateral space closure
- Cosmetic contouring of relocated canine
- Occlusal contact of extruded canine and lower incisors
- Functional occlusion
- Cosmetic reshaping with composite resins and veneers
- Crown lengthening/gingival recontouring
- Retention period

KEY MESSAGE

- Space closure is preferable if aesthetics and function is comparable to predicted treatment outcomes with prosthetic replacement
- Good restorative work is essential for excellent treatment outcomes in space-opening cases

5.3.2.3 Final prosthetic replacements

- **Removable partial denture**
This may be the prosthesis of choice if the patient is unwilling to undergo lengthy and costly treatment.

- **Bridge**

Different options include adhesive or resin-bonded bridge (RBB), fiber-reinforced composite bridge (FRCB) and porcelain-fused to metal bridge (PFB).

- RBBs have a survival rate of about 87.7% after 5 years.^{75,level I} and FRCBs have an overall survival rate of 73.4% at 4.5 years.^{83,level I} Survival time was about 3.9 times higher when RBB was done by senior staff compared with junior staff.^{84,level III} Most frequent complication was due to debonding.^{63,84,level III,75,level I}
- Survival rate of FRCB was 64% after 5 years irrespective of surface or hybrid retained. Most failures were due to fracture of the framework and delamination.^{70,level III,73,level II-2}
- Porcelain-fused-to-gold bridges have favourable long-term survival rate of 68.3% after 20 years. Vital teeth had about three times higher survival rate than root-canal treated teeth. The main reason for these failures was caries (30%).^{85,level II-2}

- **Osseointegrated dental implants**

Currently, single tooth replacement with implants has become one of the most popular treatment alternatives for the replacement of missing teeth for enhanced aesthetics and function. The main benefit is it leaves the adjacent teeth untouched. This is advantageous in younger patients and in sound dentitions. However, it should be placed only after growth completion^{86,level III,87,88,level II-2}

Criteria for placement of implants:

- i. Adequate space

Adequate space for placement of the implant and restoration should be obtained. Generally, a minimum of 6mm space is required at the inter-coronal and inter-radicular regions and 1.5 to 2.0 mm space between the implant head and adjacent teeth, although the space requirement depends on the type and size of implant inserted.^{52,53,89,91,level III,71,level II-2,90,level I}

- ii. Root paralleling during orthodontic treatment. ^{52,53,89,level III}

Adequate width and depth of bone for the implant is crucial for successful placement. If the adjacent maxillary teeth are too proclined after orthodontic treatment, the space for the future implant may be compromised due to non-root paralleling. Long cone periapical radiographs are essential in assessing adequate space in the root region unless CBCT is available.

- Long-term Stability ^{92,93,level I,94,level II-2}

There is no evidence to support the superiority of different types of implants in their long-term performance. ^{95,level I} Three-year and five-year studies of different implants have shown success rates of about 96-100%. ^{87,96,97,level II-2}

RECOMMENDATION

Osseointegrated implant placement should be done

- Only after growth completion
- If there is adequate width and depth between adjacent tooth crowns and roots. Generally, a minimum of 6mm space is required at the crown and cervical level

Grade A

- Together with root-paralleling assessment with radiographs

Grade C

KEY MESSAGE

- Survival rate of RBBs after 5 years is 87.7% and the most common complication is due to debonding
- Survival rate of FRCBs after 5 years is 64% and most failures are due to fracture and delamination
- Survival rate of porcelain-fused to gold bridges after 20 years is 68.3% and main reasons for failure are due to root-treated teeth and caries

5.3.2.4 Post-treatment Orthodontic Retention

Retention is advisable for almost all treated malocclusions although there is no standard practice retention regime or protocol and there is variability among orthodontists.^{98,99,level I;100,101,102,103,104,level II-2} There is a universal trend towards vacuum-formed retainers and bonded retainers especially mandibular fixed lingual retainers. Most orthodontists prescribe removable retainers to be worn full-time initially followed by part-time, but lifetime wear and there was no specific time for removal of fixed lingual retainers.^{105,106,107,108,level III} Current orthodontic opinion recommends single or multi-stranded stainless steel wires for bonded retainers.^{98,level I;106,108,level II-2} There was no consistent pattern in the application of retention methodologies and was dependent mainly on personal preferences although permanent retention (lifetime) has been recommended for cases following orthodontic treatment to close generalized spacing or a midline diastema in an otherwise normal occlusion.^{98,109,level I;106,107,108,level II-2}

RECOMMENDATION

- Almost all treated malocclusions need retention to resist the tendency of teeth to return to their pre-treatment positions
Grade A
- Bonded lingual retainers are recommended for long-term retention and stability
Grade A

6. IMPLEMENTING THE GUIDELINES

This section provides advice on the resource implications and strategies associated with implementing the key recommendations for quality management of patients with developmentally missing incisors.

Implementation of this CPG is an essential part of good clinical governance. It is appropriate to the local community, dental outpatients and specialist clinics and is applicable to both public and private sectors.

Mechanisms should be in place to review the current healthcare system to address gaps and weaknesses so as to facilitate the implementation of this CPG recommendations.

Recommended strategies include implementing programmes to:

- Create awareness and training of front-line dental staff
- Train specialist and non-specialist healthcare professionals
- Coordinate the referral system and availability of resources
- Establish multi-disciplinary specialist teams at district level
- Develop and disseminate 'Quick Reference Guides' to healthcare providers and 'Patient information leaflets' to the public.

6.1 Existing facilitators and barriers in applying recommendations

Implementation of the CPG will be facilitated by strengthening the existing referral system and the establishment of multi-disciplinary teams in districts with dental specialists. This CPG should be included in the training module of first-year Dental Officers in orthodontic specialist clinics.

Possible barriers in applying recommendations of the CPG in the local context:

6.1.1 Patient factors:

- Unaware of missing permanent teeth by patients/parents
- Unaware of treatment options
- Lack of awareness resulting in receiving treatment late
- Commitment to possibly lengthy and/or complicated treatment
- Financial implications

Most patients with developmentally missing anterior teeth require comprehensive orthodontic treatment. If the decision is for spaces to be closed, then the patient needs no post-orthodontic restorative dental treatment or perhaps minimum conservative modifications.

By contrast, when spaces are to be subsequently restored, the patient incurs restorative costs for dentures, bridgework or implants. Additional possible costs for crown lengthening, surgical costs for bone grafting and endodontic costs in instances where there is loss of tooth vitality due to repeated tooth preparation may be required. Furthermore, replacement of the restorations may be required more than once during the patient's lifetime.^{98,level II}

6.1.2 Healthcare professional factors:

- Lack of awareness among dental nurses and dental officers (front line staff) especially in districts without dental specialists
- These front-line staff are the primary source of referrals to orthodontists and other dental specialists

6.1.3 Health services factors:

- Lack of dental specialists
- Lack of established multi-disciplinary teams in districts
- Accessibility and financial implications for patients due to logistics of multi-disciplinary teams in rural areas

6.2 To enhance the utilization of this CPG, the following clinical audit indications for quality management using the Peer Assessment Rating (PAR) Index is proposed:-^{111,level II-1,112,level III}

% of patients with missing incisors treated and with good treatment outcomes 2 years after debond	=	Number of patients with missing incisors and good treatment outcomes 2 years after debond (>70% reduction in PAR score)	x 100
		Total number of treated patients with developmentally missing incisors	

It is recommended that treatment outcomes be evaluated 2 years after debond instead of the usual time at debond in order to assess stability and relapse of the occlusion. There are different retention regimes and protocols between operators within the country and in other countries.^{105,106,107,108,level III} However, it is the expert group's opinion that the period of 2 years was an adequate time frame for any settling of the occlusion to occur.^{98,level I}

The end of the 2-year review period is also the usual time when the patient is discharged from active care of the orthodontist. Study casts taken at this time can be used for this assessment before the patient is discharged.^{112,level II-1} (Appendix 3) A mean percentage reduction in PAR score should be greater than 70% to be considered a good standard of orthodontic treatment outcome.^{113,level II-3}

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Appendix 1

Space Closure

Pre-treatment



Missing maxillary right lateral incisor
Treatment: early extraction C B/
Canine erupts mesially and
aligned into lateral space

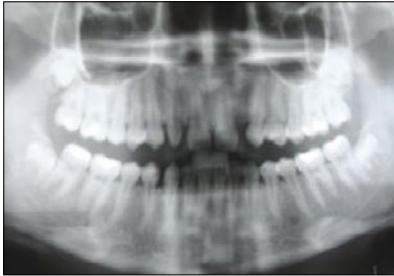
Post-treatment



Reshaping of canine

Appendix 2

Space Opening



Panoramic radiograph



Peg-shaped upper right &
Missing left lateral incisor



Space opened & redistributed



Crowned upper right lateral incisor
and bridge to replace left lateral incisor

Space Opening & Interim Orthodontic Retention



Pre-treatment study cast
Missing right and left
maxillary lateral incisor



Space opened orthodontically
for prosthetic replacement
of lateral incisor



Final prosthetic replacement with
Cantilevered bridge



Orthodontic retention with Hawley
Retainers & acrylic pontics

Appendix 3

COMPONENTS

1. Upper and lower anterior segments
2. Left and right buccal occlusion
3. Overjet
4. Overbite
5. Centreline

1) Contact point displacement score

- 0 0–1 mm
- 1 1.1–2 mm
- 2 2.1–4 mm
- 3 4.1–8 mm
- 4 >8 mm
- 5 impacted teeth

2) Buccal occlusal assessment

a) Antero-posterior

- 0 Good interdigitation
- 1 <1/2 unit from full interdigitation
- 2 Half a unit

b) Vertical

- 0 No open bite
- 1 Lateral open bite on at least
- 2 teeth >2 mm

c) Transverse

- 0 No crossbite
- 1 Crossbite tendency
- 2 Single tooth in crossbite
- 3 >1 tooth in crossbite
- 4 >1 tooth in scissors bite

3) Overjet assessment

a) Overjet

- 0 0–3 mm
- 1 3.1–5 mm
- 2 5.1–7 mm
- 3 7.1–9 mm
- 4 >9 mm

b) Anterior crossbite

- 0 No crossbite
- 1 ≥ 1 teeth edge to edge
- 2 one single tooth in crossbite
- 3 2 teeth in crossbite
- 4 >2 teeth in crossbite

4) Overbite assessment

a) Open bite

- 0 No open bite
- 1 Open bite ≤ 1 mm
- 2 Open bite 1.1–2 mm
- 3 Open bite 2.1–3 mm
- 4 Open bite ≥ 4 mm

b) Overbite

- 0 $\leq 1/3$ coverage of the lower incisor
- 1 $>1/3$ but $<2/3$ coverage of the lower incisor
- 2 $\geq 2/3$ coverage of the lower incisor
- 3 Greater or equal to full tooth coverage

5) Centreline assessment

- 0 Coincident & up to 1/4 lower incisor width
- 1 1/4–1/2 lower incisor width
- 2 $>1/2$ lower incisor width

WEIGHTINGS:

1. Upper and lower incisor segments x1
2. Left and right buccal occlusion x1
3. Overjet x6
4. Overbite x2
5. Centreline x4

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