

Clinical Pearl

Modified Lingual Arch Supported Pontic

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INTRODUCTION

In the past three decades, a major reorientation of orthodontic thinking has occurred regarding adult patients. Most adults seek orthodontic treatment either to improve esthetics or to improve occlusal function^[1]. There are several factors

responsible for the increased interest by adults in orthodontic treatment, including availability of a variety of cosmetic appliances and an increased desire for treatment of dental mutilation problems using tooth movement and fixed restorations rather than removable prostheses^[2]. Missing

posterior teeth or necessary asymmetric orthodontic extraction may lead to migration, tilting of the adjacent teeth, and supra-eruption of the opposing teeth along with compromised esthetics [Figures 1 and 2]. Owing to these factors the need of an appliance which can control the problems and help in enhancing the outcome of the result becomes a prime objective for the orthodontist. Hence, this article represents a modification to the traditional lingual arch.

INDICATIONS

1. Maintenance of space in cases of missing first molars to facilitate the prosthesis build up in the future.
2. Preservation Of Arch Length
3. Prevents The Mesial Drift Of Molars

STEPS IN FABRICATION

1. Armamentarium : 20-gauge, round Stainless steel wire (to increase flexibility and springiness), cold cure acrylic and acrylic teeth.
2. An appropriate Pontic was selected on which bands were placed to enhance the retention to the appliance (figure 2)

3. The pontic was then placed on the cast followed by soldering and completing the appliance fabrication (figure 3)
4. The appliance after completion was cemented in the patient



Figure 1: An Appropriate Pontic Was Selected And Band Was Placed



Figure 2: Pontic Fabricated Was Placed On The Cast



Figure 3: Fabricated Appliance



Figure 4: Appliance Cemented in the Patient

ADVANTAGES

1. Functionally efficient with no extraction space visible during the course of the treatment.
2. Prevents the supraeruption of the posterior tooth and also facilitates the intrusion of the same
3. Anchorage control .

5. Prevents the mesial migration of the adjacent tooth.

CONCLUSION

Thus ,the modified lingual arch with supported pontic offers a number of advantages ranging from esthetics to the control of anchorage which can benefit the orthodontist to attain proper finishing in the cases of missing posterior teeth

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