

Early age orthodontic treatment: what should every practitioner know?



Sulaimani Dent. J.

*Dr Hadi M Ismail BDS, MSc, PhD (Orthodontics) Lecturer at the Dental Nursing Department,
Sulaimani Polytechnic University.*

Abstract

Background: Early orthodontic treatment includes any measure performed to correct a developing malocclusion or to simplify later orthodontic care. Early age orthodontic treatment is applicable in some cases with certain occlusal problems that could continue to worsen or be more difficult to treat at later stages of dental and skeletal development. If certain occlusal problems are not diagnosed and treated at the initial stage, they could deter the normal craniofacial development of the respective child. Interceptive orthodontic treatment reduces the complexity of some malocclusions during the mixed dentition phase of dental development; however, a follow-up orthodontic treatment is usually required when the permanent dentition has been established.

Objectives: The purpose of this talk is to identify some of the evidence-based advantages of early age orthodontic treatment. The talk will be enriched by some clinical cases with early orthodontic treatment intervention. This will guide orthodontists and general practitioners to recognize the effectiveness of early age orthodontic treatment, consequently guiding the patients to the right way.

Methodology: Recent literatures on advantages of early age orthodontic treatment were reviewed.

Conclusion: The timing of orthodontic intervention has been a hot subject of discussion for a decade along with early treatment to treat or to prevent skeletal discrepancies in sagittal, transverse and vertical planes as well as to alleviate crowding in common practice. Recent literature supports full correction of developed malocclusion with early intervention at the mixed dentition stage. In addition, early intervention is more cost effective than delayed intervention.