

A service evaluation of patients requiring growth modification in a public service setting

Précis: Earlier treatment with functional appliance therapy may improve patient compliance and reduce the time spent in fixed appliances.

Abstract

Aim: To conduct a service evaluation of patients who had functional appliance treatment to correct Class II malocclusions in a public orthodontic clinic. To evaluate the effect of prioritisation and earlier treatment of these patients on treatment duration and patient compliance.

Methodology: The prioritised treatment group (PTG) had twin block appliances fitted when they were 11 or 12 years old. In comparison, the routine treatment group (RTG) had twin block appliances fitted when they were 13 or 14. Electronic patient records were screened to find a sample of 100 patients from each cohort. The number of compliance issues, functional appliance treatment duration, fixed appliance treatment duration, and total treatment duration were recorded retrospectively from patient charts.

Results: While mean total treatment time was similar across the two cohorts, the PTG did have significantly shorter fixed appliance treatment durations than the RTG. The PTG was also found to have better compliance than the RTG.

Conclusions: Prioritising patients who require functional appliance treatment does not reduce total treatment duration. A correlation between earlier treatment, improved patient compliance, and a shorter course of fixed appliance therapy can be seen, which may prove clinically beneficial. Further research in this area would be valuable.

Journal of the Irish Dental Association April/May 2024;70(2):85-89



Dr Natasha Lemasney
BA BDentSc(TCD) Dip
PCD(RCSI) MFD(RCSI) MSc
Orthodontics postgraduate
student,
Trinity College Dublin

Dr Niamh O'Rourke
BA BDentSc(TCD)
MFDS(RCSEdin) MFD(RCSI)
MClinDent
Orthodontics(QMUL)
MOrth(RCSEng) FDS
Orth(RCSEng)
Consultant Orthodontist,
Galway University Hospital

Dr Triona Fahey
BDS(National Uni of Ire)
MFDS(RCS Lond)
MScD(UCardiff)
MOrth(RCSEdin) FDS
Orth(RCSEdin)
Consultant Orthodontist,
Galway University Hospital

Dr Lorna Dobbyn Ross
BA BDentSc (TCD) MFDS
(RCSEdin) MOrth (RCSEdin)
MSc (Dundee) FDS Orth
(RCSEdin)
Consultant Orthodontist,
Galway University Hospital

Corresponding author: Dr Natasha Lemasney, Trinity College Dublin E: natashalemasney@gmail.com