

Management Strategies and Clinical Considerations for Growing Patients with Class III Malocclusion

DR. Ju Young Lee

Since the growth patterns of Class III patients differ significantly from physiological norms, it is imperative to understand the skeletal characteristics inherent in Class III growth and establish tailored interceptive strategies.

Extensive clinical research has demonstrated that controlling mandibular overgrowth remains a formidable challenge. Although various attempts to suppress mandibular excess by applying mechanical pressure to the mandible have failed to yield predictable outcomes, establishing a functional environment conducive to favorable maxillofacial development in the early stages remains clinically significant.

Promoting maxillary protraction in growing patients to mitigate the intermaxillary discrepancy can enhance both facial esthetics and occlusal relationships. However, even after successful initial correction, the persistent nature of Class III growth patterns necessitates long-term surveillance and potential secondary intervention, which underscores the complexity of managing these cases.

While pseudo-Class III or dental Class III malocclusion presenting with anterior crossbite can be managed with relatively simple appliances, cases involving true skeletal disharmony require comprehensive orthopedic therapy. In such instances, clinical focus should be directed toward maxillary growth modulation, which offers a more effective window for correction. It is advisable to maximize orthopedic intervention prior to the pubertal growth spurt, followed by a longitudinal assessment of mandibular growth to determine the definitive orthodontic treatment plan.

This lecture aims to elucidate the characteristics of Class III patients requiring long-term management and to discuss appropriate therapeutic modalities based on individual growth patterns. By establishing a robust rapport with patients and guardians through evidence-based communication, clinicians can approach the management of growing Class III malocclusions with enhanced clinical confidence.

Profile

- * Ju Young Lee, DDS, MSD, PhD. Orthodontic Specialist
- * Supervisor, Founding President of Korean Society of Digital Orthodontists(KSDO)
- * Adjunct Associate Professor of Loma Linda University, CA, USA
- * Adjunct Professor of KyungHee University, Catholic University, Sungkyunkwan University, and Ajou University, Korea.
- * Present, Chief Director of Plus 1 Orthodontic Office, Suwon, Korea.