

Leveling and Space Closure Protocol

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I would like to discuss about the leveling and space closure protocol in the premolar extraction cases of Class I malocclusion.

The premolars are removed to ensure the sufficient space in the cases with moderate crowding and protrusion. The initial stage of extraction treatment is relatively easy to approach. But its later stage has the various clinical considerations -excessively flat lip profile, anterior torque loss, the remaining lip protrusion, incomplete space closure, lack of stable functional occlusion-especially, large anterior overjet, deep anterior overbite-, prolonged treatment duration, frequent minor relapse, etc. If you have clinical experience of attempting hastily to close the space due to the prolonged treatment period, or if you have difficulty managing patients just before or after completing orthodontic treatment, it is most likely due to a lack of detailed space closure mechanics. These problems are not only difficult to be found during space closure stage, but also more complicated to be corrected in a timely manner.

In this presentation, I would like to introduce the efficient space closure method using the sliding mechanics and explain the clinical checklists and tips that should not be missed. In addition, I would like to emphasize why the leveling mechanics is closely related to the space closure mechanics. Therefore, I would hope to be used as useful guidelines for the space closure mechanics of premolar extraction orthodontic treatment.

Profile

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