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Effects of a Magnetic Appliance in Functional Class III Patients

Cumhur Tuncer;^a Oktay Ünler^b

ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to determine the effects of a magnetic appliance in functional Class III patients. Standardized lateral head cephalograms and hand-wrist films of 10 subjects (mean age nine years seven months) were taken at the beginning of a period of one year, and the serial films were compared to determine the direction of facial growth as the control group. After this observation period, the magnetic appliance was placed in the 10 patients for approximately 9.4 months. The results of this study indicate that the primary effect of magnetic appliance was the increase in the posterior rotation of the mandible ($x = 2.1 \pm 0.7^\circ$), increased overjet ($x = 4.8 \pm 0.3$ mm), decreased overbite ($x = -3.7 \pm 0.7$ mm), protrusion of the upper incisors ($x = 6.2 \pm 1.2^\circ$), retrusion in the lower incisors ($x = -0.6 \pm 0.3^\circ$), reduced mandibular plane angle ($x = 1.9 \pm 0.3^\circ$), and an increased mandibular plane angle ($x = 2.1 \pm 0.7^\circ$). The results of this study indicate that the primary effect of magnetic appliance was the increase in the posterior rotation of the mandible.

KEY WORDS: Functional Class III, Magnets.

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INTRODUCTION [Return to TOC](#)

The most commonly reported treatment protocols for Class III malocclusions have included Frankel III appliances,¹ face mask therapy,^{2,3} orthopedic chin cups, and magnetic appliances. The Fr-III appliance was recommended by Frankel because face mask therapy produces protrusive forces to the maxilla and maxillary dentition. It has been stated that circummaxillary sutures are affected by this therapy.^{2,3} The protraction forces on the maxilla by face mask therapy can be supposed to facilitate the orthopedic effect of the mask. It has been reported that maxillary expansion produces a slight forward movement of the maxilla.⁴

The orthopedic chin cup is also used in the treatment of Class III malocclusion. This therapy is useful in patients who have a protrusive mandible rather than a small and retrusive maxilla. It has been pointed out that the primary effect of chin cup therapy is to rotate the mandible posteriorly.

Pseudo Class III is defined as the functional forward displacement of the mandible as a result of retroclined maxillary incisors.⁵ Early treatment of Class III individuals, especially pseudo Class III individuals, has been suggested in order to prevent the treatment modalities influence the effects of the therapies. Various appliances such as removable plates, fixed or removable inclined planes, functional appliances, fixed appliances, and chin cups have been designed for early treatment of Class III malocclusion.

Medical and dental applications are favorable fields for the use of magnets. Magnetic forces offer some advantages in orthodontics by their biologic effects, but there is some controversy about the effects on periodontal tissues. They have been presented in several studies.⁸⁻¹¹ Darendeliler et al⁸ developed a magnetic activator device for Class II division 1 malocclusions and stated the advantages of the less-bulky design of the appliance. Successful use of a magnetic appliance in the treatment of Class III malocclusion has been reported.¹² Because of their high costs and the debate about the effects on human tissues, magnets have not yet been routinely used.¹²

There are only a few studies concerning functional Class III subjects. The aim of this study was to determine the craniofacial and dentoalveolar changes of a magnetic device in functional Class III malocclusions.

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A group of 10 children with pseudo Class III malocclusion (six boys, four girls), mean skeletal age of nine years six months \pm 1.02, mean chronological age nine years seven months \pm 1.04, were observed for one year without any orthodontic treatment. Each patient had a serial lateral cephalogram and hand-wrist film before and after the observation period and also just after the observation period. Photographs are shown in [Figures 1a,b](#) and [2a,b](#).

The patients were treated with a magnetic device consisting of upper and lower removable appliances carrying magnets in both segments. Heated wax with five mm of vertical activation was prepared for a bite and the patient's maxillary and mandibular arches were covered with wax. Each appliance had Adams clasps on the first molars, a labial bow, and three neodymium (Nd2Fe17B) magnets. Two of the magnets were placed in the molar region and one in the anterior region ([Figure 3a](#)).

The upper-arch magnets were placed three mm distal to the lower-arch magnets ([Figure 3b](#)). This way, the upper and lower magnets try to locate at the same level by attractive forces, and a backward force toward the mandible was produced by the attracting force of 300 g on each side, producing a total magnetic force of 900 g. The magnets had 2.5 mm height and nine mm radius ([Figure 3c](#)). The subjects were instructed to wear the two appliances approximately 18 hours per day.

After obtaining the desired amount of overjet and correction of the anterior crossbite, a full set of records was obtained. The overall treatment period ranged from 5.5 to 12 months. The dentofacial changes were evaluated by linear measurements and the landmarks were digitized.

Evaluations were made by the RMO JOE Jiffy 5.0 orthodontic program (Rocky Mountain, Denver, Colo). Statistical evaluation was performed using a *t*-test.

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Descriptive statistics for the cephalometric variables before and after the observation and also posttreatment periods are shown in [Table 1](#). [Table 2](#) shows the results of the statistical comparisons during the observation period and between periods. The statistical comparisons of changes determined in the observation and treatment periods are shown in [Table 4](#).

Maxillomandibular relationship

The ANB angle decreased during the observation period ($P < .01$) but increased significantly after the treatment ($P < .001$). The difference between the two periods is significant ($P < .001$). The lower facial height angle (ANS-Xi/Xi-P) showed a significant difference was determined between periods ($P > .05$). The palatomandibular plane angle (ANS-PNS/Go-Me) increased during the treatment period ($P < .05$). A statistical difference was noted between periods ($P < .05$).

Mandibular measurements

The decrease in SNB angle during the treatment period was statistically significant ($P < .05$). A statistical difference was present between periods ($P < .05$).

The Facial axis angle (N-Ba/CC-Gn) decreased during both periods ($P < .05$). The difference between the two periods was significant ($P < .05$).

The y-axis (S-N/S-Gn) ($P < .05$) and the mandibular plane (S-N/Go-Gn) ($P < .01$) increased as a treatment effect. Statistical differences were present between periods ($P < .05$).

The lower gonial angle increased during the treatment period ($P < .01$), and the difference between the periods was significant ($P < .01$). The mandibular length, as indicated by Co-Gn, increased during the observation period ($P < .05$) and between periods ($P > .05$). The mandibular plane-Frankfurt horizontal plane angle showed statistically significant results between periods ($P < .05$).

Among the linear measurements for the assessment of facial height, posterior face height (S-Go) exhibited a significant increase during both periods ($P < .01$), but no difference was determined among periods ($P > .05$). The anterior face height (ANS-Xi/Xi-P) showed a significant difference was determined between periods ($P > .05$). No significant differences were found for posteroanterior face height ratios and, therefore, a difference existed between periods ($P < .05$). The lower anterior face height (ANS-Xi/Xi-P) showed a significant difference was determined between periods ($P < .001$), and a significant difference was assessed between periods ($P < .05$).

TABLES [Return to TOC](#)TABLE 1. Descriptive Statistics for all Variables^a

Measurements	Preobservation		Postobservation		Posttreatment	
	X1	SX1	X2	SX2	X3	SX3
Cranial						
ArSN	123.1	1.9	123.1	1.9	123.5	1.8
SN	67.9	0.8	68.7	1.0	69.4	1.0
Maxillary						
SNA	79.2	0.9	79.4	0.8	79.9	0.9
Maxillary depth	86.5	0.9	86.5	1.0	87.7	1.1
Maxillary height	62.3	1.4	61.3	1.1	61.6	1.0
Condylion-A	80.6	1.1	82.0	1.1	83.7	1.8
Palatal/Frankfurt horizontal	-2.1	0.9	-1.6	0.7	-0.5	0.6
Maxilla and mandible						
ANB	-1.1	0.7	-2.0	0.7	-0.1	0.7
Angle of lower facial height	43.2	0.8	43.2	1.0	44.3	0.9
Palatal/mandibular	25.8	1.5	25.2	1.4	27.3	1.4
Mandibular						
SNB	80.3	1.3	81.4	1.0	79.6	1.3
Facial axis	87.9	1.2	89.8	1.1	88.2	1.2
y-axis	65.4	1.2	64.4	0.8	66.6	1.2
SN/GoGn	35.3	1.9	33.9	1.5	35.9	1.8
SArGo angle	22.7	1.8	22.6	1.7	21.6	1.6
ArGoN (upper gonial angle)	53.7	1.6	54.2	1.1	52.6	1.7
NGoMe (lower gonial angle)	76.5	1.3	75.9	1.3	76.9	1.4
CoGn	110.4	2.2	113.9	2.2	115.3	2.8
Mandibular/Frankfurt horizontal	27.9	1.6	26.8	1.3	27.8	1.4
Facial height						
Sgo	70.7	1.5	72.7	1.8	74.2	2.4
NMe	111.7	2.0	113.0	1.7	117.4	2.3
SGo/NMe × 100	63.4	1.4	64.3	1.2	63.1	1.3
ANSM	61.3	1.3	62.1	1.5	65.1	1.7
Dental and dentoalveolar						
Overjet	-2.3	0.3	-2.2	0.2	2.6	0.2
Overbite	3.3	0.8	4.2	0.7	0.5	0.4
Interincisal angle	147.1	1.1	145.8	1.5	139.9	1.5
1-NA distance	2.83	0.5	3.6	0.6	5.07	0.6
1-NA angle	17.3	1.8	19.7	1.8	25.9	1.6
1-NB distance	3.2	0.3	3.2	0.3	2.7	0.3
1-NB angle	16.7	1.6	16.4	1.5	14.1	1.3
6-PTV	9.2	1.1	10.5	1.5	13.8	1.4
FMIA	70.8	2.2	72.1	2.4	73.7	2.2
Occlusal plane/cella-Nasion	19.9	1.9	18.4	1.5	17.6	1.0
Occlusal plane/Frankfurt plane	12.4	1.8	11.3	1.6	9.5	1.3
Mandibular incisor extrusion	2.6	0.8	2.5	0.6	0.7	0.4
Lower incisor/mandibular plane	81.1	1.6	81.0	1.6	78.5	1.3
Upper incisor/palatal plane	106.6	1.8	108.3	1.7	114.7	2.0
1⊥ANS-PNS	26.5	0.5	26.8	0.6	27.1	0.5
1⊥GoGn	34.0	0.6	34.3	0.7	34.6	0.8
6⊥ANS-PNS	19.1	0.3	19.3	0.4	20.6	0.4
6⊥GoGn	25.3	0.8	25.5	0.8	25.7	1.0
Esthetic						
Lower lip-esthetic plane	-1.7	0.7	-1.7	0.8	-1.8	0.6
Nasolabial angle	104.8	5.0	103.2	4.6	98.7	5.1
Age						
Chronological age	114.6	5.2	126.6	5.2	136.0	5.6
Skeletal age	113.7	4.4	125.2	4.3	134.9	4.9

^a X1 indicates mean of preobservation period; SX1, standard error of mean of preobservation period; X2, mean of postobservation period; SX2, standard error of mean of postobservation period; X3, mean of posttreatment period; SX3, standard error of mean of posttreatment period

TABLE 2. Statistical Comparison on the Differences Between Preobservation and Postobservation

Measurements	Mean	SD	P ^a
Cranial			
ArSN	0.1	1.1	NS
SN	0.8	0.4	NS
Maxillary			
SNA	0.3	0.8	NS
Maxillary depth	0.1	0.6	NS
Maxillary height	-1.0	0.8	NS
Condylion-A	1.4	0.9	NS
Palatal/Frankfurt horizontal plane	0.5	0.8	NS
Maxilla and mandible			
ANB	-0.9	0.2	**
Lower facial height	-0.1	0.7	NS
Palatal/mandibular plane	-0.6	0.8	NS
Mandibular			
SNB	1.2	0.8	NS
Facial axis	1.9	0.8	NS
y-axis	-1.0	0.7	NS
SN/GoGn	-1.5	0.8	NS
SArGo	-0.1	0.6	NS
ArGoN (upper gonial angle)	0.5	0.8	NS
NGoMe (lower gonial angle)	-0.7	0.4	NS
CoGn	3.6	0.9	**
Mandibular/Frankfurt horizontal plane	-1.1	0.6	NS
Facial height			
Sgo	1.9	0.6	**
Nme	1.3	0.9	NS
Sgo/NMe × 100	0.9	0.6	NS
ANS-Me	0.8	0.5	NS
Dental and dentoalveolar			
Overjet	0.1	0.2	NS
Overbite	0.8	0.4	NS
Interincisal angle	-1.3	1.5	NS
1-NA distance	0.7	0.3	*
1̄-NA angle	2.5	1.2	NS
1̄-NB distance	0.1	0.2	NS
1-NB angle	-0.3	0.9	NS
6-PTV	1.4	0.9	NS
FMIA	1.3	1.1	NS
Occlusal plane/cella-Nasion	-1.6	1.7	NS
Occlusal plane/Frankfurt plane	-1.1	1.8	NS
Mandibular incisor extrusion	-0.1	0.6	NS
Lower incisor/mandibular plane	-0.1	0.9	NS
Upper incisor/palatal plane	1.8	1.3	NS
1̄⊥ANS-PNS	0.4	0.2	NS
1̄⊥GoGn	0.3	0.2	NS
6̄⊥ANS-PNS	0.2	0.2	NS
6̄⊥GoGn	0.3	0.2	NS
Esthetic			
Lower lip-esthetic plane	-0.1	0.3	NS
Nasolabial angle	-1.5	3.4	NS
Age			
Chronological age	12.0	0.2	***
Skeletal age	11.5	0.5	***

^a NS indicates not significant; * $P < .05$; ** $P < .01$; *** $P < .001$.

TABLE 3. Statistical Comparison on the Differences Between Pretreatment and Posttreatment Periods

Measurements	Mean	SD	P ^a
Cranial			
ArSN	0.4	1.2	NS
SN	0.7	0.3	NS
Maxillary			
SNA	0.5	0.7	NS
Maxillary depth	1.2	0.7	NS
Maxillary height	0.3	0.7	NS
Condylion-A	1.7	1.1	NS
Palatal/Frankfurt horizontal plane	1.1	0.7	NS
Maxilla and mandible			
ANB	1.9	0.3	**
Lower facial height	1.1	0.5	*
Palatal/mandibular plane	2.1	0.7	*
Mandibular			
SNB	-1.8	0.8	*
Facial axis	-1.6	0.8	*
y-axis	2.1	0.7	*
SN/GoGn	2.1	0.7	**
SArGo	-1.0	1.1	NS
ArGoN (upper gonial angle)	-1.6	1.0	NS
NGoMe (lower gonial angle)	1.1	0.4	**
CoGn	1.4	1.0	NS
Mandibular/Frankfurt horizontal plane	1.0	0.5	NS
Facial height			
SGo	1.5	0.8	**
NMe	4.5	0.8	***
SGo/NMe × 100	-1.2	0.5	NS
ANS-Me	3.0	0.7	***
Dental and dentoalveolar			
Overjet	4.8	0.3	***
Overbite	-3.7	0.7	***
Interincisal angle	-5.9	1.4	**
1-NA distance	1.5	0.3	***
1̄-NA angle	6.2	1.2	***
1-NB distance	-0.6	0.3	NS
1-NB angle	-2.3	0.7	**
6-PTV	3.3	0.9	**
FMIA	1.6	1.2	NS
Occlusal plane/cella-Nasion	-0.7	1.3	NS
Occlusal plane/Frankfurt plane	-1.8	1.1	NS
Mandibular incisor extrusion	-1.9	0.4	***
Lower incisor/mandibular plane	-2.6	0.8	*
Upper incisor/palatal plane	6.4	1.3	***
1⊥ANS-PNS	0.3	0.3	NS
1̄⊥GoGn	0.4	0.3	NS
6⊥ANS-PNS	1.3	0.3	**
6̄⊥GoGn	0.2	0.8	NS
Esthetic			
Lower lip-esthetic plane	-0.1	0.5	NS
Nasolabial angle	-4.5	3.8	NS
Age			
Chronological age	9.4	1.2	***
Skeletal age	9.2	1.0	***

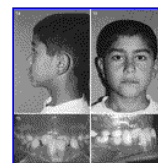
^a NS indicates not significant; * $P < .05$; ** $P < .01$; *** $P < .001$.

TABLE 4. Statistical Comparison on the Differences Between Observation and Treatment Periods

Measurements	Prepost observation		Prepost treatment		P ^a
	Mean	SD	Mean 1	SD 1	
Cranial					
ArSN	0.1	1.1	0.4	1.2	NS
SN	0.8	0.4	0.7	0.3	NS
Maxillary					
SNA	0.3	0.8	0.5	0.7	NS
Maxillary depth	0.1	0.6	1.2	0.7	NS
Maxillary height	-1.0	0.8	0.3	0.7	NS
Condylion-A	1.4	0.9	1.7	1.1	NS
Palatal/Frankfurt horizontal plane	0.5	0.8	1.1	0.7	NS
Maxilla and mandible					
ANB	-0.9	0.2	1.9	0.3	***
Lower facial height	-0.1	0.7	1.1	0.5	NS
Palatal/mandibular plane	-0.6	0.8	2.1	0.7	*
Mandibular					
SNB	1.2	0.8	-1.8	0.8	*
Facial axis	1.9	0.8	-1.6	0.8	*
y-axis	-1.0	0.7	2.1	0.7	*
SN/GoGn	-1.5	0.8	2.1	0.7	*
SArGo	-0.1	0.6	-1.0	1.1	NS
ArGoN (upper gonial angle)	0.5	0.8	-1.6	0.7	NS
NGoMe (lower gonial angle)	-0.7	0.4	1.1	0.4	**
CoGn	3.6	0.9	1.4	1.0	NS
Mandibular/Frankfurt horizontal plane	-1.1	0.6	1.0	0.5	*
Facial height					
SGo	1.9	0.6	1.5	0.8	NS
NMe	1.3	0.9	4.5	0.8	*
SGo/NMe × 100	0.9	0.6	-1.2	0.5	*
ANS-Me	0.8	0.5	3.0	0.7	*
Dental and dentoalveolar					
Overjet	0.1	0.2	4.8	0.3	***
Overbite	0.8	0.4	-3.7	0.7	***
Interincisal angle	-1.3	1.5	-5.9	1.4	NS
1-NA distance	0.7	0.3	1.5	0.3	NS
1-NA angle	2.5	1.2	6.2	1.2	NS
1-NB distance	0.1	0.2	-0.6	0.3	NS
1-NB angle	-0.3	0.9	-2.3	0.7	NS
6-PTV	1.4	0.9	3.3	0.9	NS
FMIA	1.3	1.1	1.6	1.2	NS
Occlusal plane/cella-Nasion	-1.6	1.7	-0.7	1.3	NS
Occlusal plane/Frankfurt plane	-1.1	1.8	-1.8	1.1	NS
Lower incisor extrusion	-0.1	0.6	-1.9	0.4	*
Lower incisor/mandibular plane	-0.1	0.9	-2.6	0.8	NS
Upper incisor/palatal plane	1.8	1.3	6.4	1.3	NS
1⊥ANS-PNS	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3	NS
1⊥GoGn	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.3	NS
6⊥ANS-PNS	0.2	0.2	1.3	0.3	*
6⊥GoGn	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.8	NS
Esthetic					
Lower lip-esthetic plane	-0.1	0.3	-0.1	0.5	NS
Nasolabial angle	-1.5	3.4	-4.5	3.8	NS
Age					
Chronological age	12.0	0.2	9.4	1.2	NS
Skeletal age	11.5	0.5	9.2	1.0	NS

^a NS indicates not significant; * $P < .05$; ** $P < .01$; *** $P < .001$.

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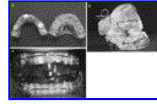
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FIGURE 1. (a) Frontal and profile views before treatment. (b) Intraoral views before treatment



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FIGURE 2. (a) Frontal and profile views after treatment. (b) Intraoral views after treatment



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FIGURE 3. (a) The view of upper and lower parts of the magnetic appliance. (b) The view of the magnetic appliance extraorally. (c) Intraoral view of the magnetic appliance

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