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Serial extraction of first premolars — postretention evaluation of stability and relapse

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ABSTRACT

Case records were evaluated for 30 patients who had undergone serial extraction of deciduous teeth plus first premolars followed by comprehensive orthodontic treatment and retention. Diagnostic records were available for the following stages: pre-extraction, start of active treatment, end of active treatment, and a minimum of 10 years postretention. All cases were treated with standard edgewise mechanics and were judged clinically satisfactory by the end of active treatment. Twenty-two of the 30 cases (73%) demonstrated clinically unsatisfactory mandibular anterior alignment postretention. Inter canine width and arch length decreased in 29 of the 30 cases by the postretention stage. There was no difference between the serial extraction sample and a matched sample extracted and treated after full eruption.

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