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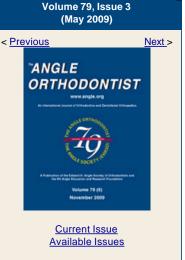
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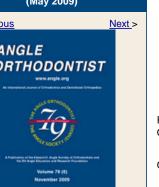
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Original Articles

Change of Incisor Inclination Effects on Points A and B

Rasha Al-Abdwania, David R. Molesb, and Joseph Harold Noarc

Abstract

Objective: To identify and evaluate changes in the cephalometric position of points A and B due to an incisal inclination change caused by orthodontic treatment.

Materials and Method: A total of 103 pairs of consecutive pretreatment and posttreatment lateral cephalographs that met the inclusion criteria were systematically collected from the departmental database and digitized using a customized software program (Gela). Repeatability analyses showed good reliability and no evidence of bias. A statistical model was generated using a Generalized Estimating Equation approach to analyze the data accounting for growth and bodily movement because both factors influence the position of points A and B (P < .001, P < .001). Changes in tooth length were also accounted for, as these changes may influence the calculated position of the centroid (P = .002).

Results: Each 10° change in the maxillary incisor inclination results in a statistically significant average change in point A of 0.4 mm in the horizontal plane (P = .028). Each 10° change in the mandibular incisor inclination results in a borderline statistically significant average change in point B of 0.3 mm in the horizontal plane (P = .058). There were no significant changes in the vertical position of points A and B.

Conclusion: The effects of incisal inclination changes, due to orthodontic treatment, are of no clinical relevance to the position of point A and B, even though they may be statistically significant. The validity of points A and B as skeletal landmarks generally holds true, and accounting for treatment changes is unnecessary.

Keywords: Cephalometrics, Incisal inclination, Orthodontics

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