Clear fixed appliances chosen over aligner treatment for arch development

By Dr. Stuart Frost, USA

Pretreatment Diagnosis

Class I (end-to-end molar on right), female patient, 38, presented for clear aligner treatment. She had had orthodontic treatment years before. Given that her chief concerns were the crowding in her lower arch and widening her smile, I was able to convince her that passive self-ligation would offer her the results she wanted and could satisfy her need for esthetics since Damon Clear was then available in prototype. She had no jaw popping or clicking.

Facial/Soft Tissue/Macroesthetics: Mildly convex profile and nasolabial angle. Slight lip strain at rest with lower midline shifted to the right.

Smile/Miniesthetics: Excessive upper gingival display, narrow arches with 5 to 4 mm of crowding in the lower arch and 1 to 2 mm of crowding in the upper arch. Consonant smile arc.

Teeth/Microesthetics: Esthetically shaped teeth and excellent hygiene. Inconsistent gingival architecture in the lower anterior and UR3.

Treatment Objectives and Plan

Treatment allows us to achieve esthetic fixed appliance needs, esthetic fixed appliance treatment can satisfy certain treatment objectives. Widening the transverse arch width, especially U2-2, also diminished the excess gingival display.

While the patient had originally inquired about clear aligner treatment, the fee would have been substantially more and would not have allowed us to meet one of her chief objectives, which was transverse arch development. While clear aligner treatment can satisfy certain needs, esthetic fixed appliance treatment allows us to achieve outstanding results.

What I Would Do Differently Today

The patient had a lateral tongue thrust at the UR3. Were I to treat the case today, I would place lingual tongue reminders on the LR5 that would likely have resulted in a more satisfactory Class I right cuspid relationship.

References

1. All Copper Ni-Ti wire used is Damon Optimal Force Copper Ni-Ti.

Contact details available from the publisher.

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