Miniscrews: a focal point in practice

Part 2 of 6: Clinical examples

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Horizontal tooth displacement

Lack of space is one of the main reasons for the oblique positioning of teeth. One way to solve this problem is to create the necessary space.

Conversely, premature loss of teeth or anatomical abnormalities may result in gaps that require modification for various reasons. For the correction of horizontal tooth displacement, miniscrews can be used as these produce no undesirable reactive effects.

Distalization

The first case (Figs. 1a–c) presented involves a frequently encountered problem: the patient’s molars had migrated in a mesial direction. This resulted in a marked loss of space in the region of the canines.

The two treatment options in such a case are extraction or distalization. In this case, distalization was a viable option and extraction was unnecessary.

Conventional techniques for distalization (apart from the use of headgear) require support from other groups of teeth. Creating anchorage in this way has negative reactive effects.

In the example under consideration, it is highly probable that protrusion of the anterior teeth would have resulted should a conventional method for distalization have been employed. Such negative results can be avoided by the use of miniscrews.

Miniscrews can be inserted in the vestibular and — as in this example — palatal areas. Vestibular insertion of a miniscrew (e.g., between the premolars) is always associated with the miniscrew’s eventual interference with tooth migration. When this occurs, the miniscrew must be extracted and a conventional form was a viable option and extraction was unnecessary.