Bolton focused orthodontists’ attention on the need to alter the mesial-distal dimensions of teeth for optimal occlusion. Peck and Peck offered another rationale for interproximal enamel reduction (IPR) during a time when orthodontists were still banding teeth. Their protocol relied upon the need to reduce the mesio-distal dimensions of the mandibular incisors to coincide with their facial-ligual dimensions. Clinicians needed to make such reductions before banding the teeth, and those reductions were ordinarily miniscule. Not until orthodontists began to bond teeth did they consider removing larger amounts of enamel for therapeutic purposes. Sheridan first suggested the possibility of reducing the mesial and distal surfaces of teeth with rotary instruments, e.g., the air turbine with thin diamond or carbide burs. The rationale was to mimic by fast, deliberate removal of enamel the natural attrition of enamel that Begg had discovered occurring with Australian aborigines.

Instrumentation

Most early recommendations for reducing the mesio-distal dimensions relied on abrasive strips, which require a maximum of labor for minimal results. Cavitar developed a thin-bladed instrument that combined with an aluminum-oxide slurry to reduce enamel ultrasonically, but the ADA removed its approval, and the company stopped making it. Dome Corporation developed a rechargeable reciprocating electric toothbrush. The thin abrasive tips were made of diamond-encrusted films or aluminum-oxide films. The Dome Corporation stopped production of the Dome Stripper several years ago. This left primarily two effective mechanized instruments for quick enamel reduction: thin rotary discs, which can cut in one plane only and carry a high level of danger, and the air rotor instruments, which often remove more enamel than necessary.

Enter the Ortho Slenderizer

The newest addition to the IPR armamentarium, the Ortho Slenderizer offers orthodontists the latest automated IPR instrument and provides an improved and more versatile relative to the earlier version of the Dome Stripper. The blades incorporate perforated, rapid-cutting, diamond-abrasive surfaces, which resist clogging and exhibit no measurable heat build up. Blades of fine, medium and coarse grit reduce the drudgery of IPR to minutes.

The Ortho Slenderizer (Photo/Provided by OrthoMatics)

Blank and half abrasive. The blank can be inserted into any tight contact, such as a piece of thin wire floss. The abrasive is then eased into the contact to break it. Hand strips are now needed only with extreme rotations.

Unlike short blades, rigid blades or spinning disks, Ortho Slenderizer blades can flex to produce superior rounding of line angles. This tool is designed for maximum efficiency and ease of use and is an exceptional value.

Quite simply, the Ortho Slenderizer is the clinician’s best tool for the task, i.e., reducing the drudgery of IPR.

See the Ortho Slenderizer in action at orthomatics.com.

References