

Insta-Head: An Instant Headgear Tube

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ABSTRACT

Specialized headgear tubes are required for fabrication of appliances, such as activator-headgear and twin-block with headgear. The common problems with these tubes are that they need to be purchased beforehand and they are expensive. The present article describes the chairside fabrication of a simple, inexpensive headgear tube (insta-head) without the need of any specialized armamentarium.

Keywords: Activator-headgear tube, Skeletal Class II, Skeletal Class III.

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INTRODUCTION

Correction of skeletal Class II discrepancies in growing patients is the operational field of the activator headgear appliance.¹ Similarly, appliance like twin-block can also be used along with the headgear to correct skeletal Class II malocclusion. For preparation of activator headgear appliance, specialized activator headgear tubes are used. Although, few private practitioners prefer to get the activator headgear prepared from the laboratory, many clinicians and postgraduate students fabricate it on their own. An instant-headgear tube (insta-head) as a replacement of preformed activator headgear tubes is presented, this makes them readily available and highly economical.

PROCEDURES

Approximately, 3 inches length of 19 gauge (1.0 mm) wire is taken to prepare the insta-head, headgear tube (Fig. 1). With the help of universal plier, wire is bent to form 3 to 4 continuous coils, keeping an internal diameter of nearly 0.45 inches (similar to the headgear tube) (Fig. 2). The total length of the coiled tube nearly remains 4 mm, with the tag arms made into a circular manner for mechanical locking into the acrylic (Fig. 3).

The insta-head is incorporated into the wax bite, exactly in the same manner in which activator headgear tube is inserted (Fig. 4). After acrylization, the insta-head works in the same manner, as that of the preformed activator headgear tube in an activator (Figs 5 to 7). A young individual who needed an activator headgear is wearing the activator appliance with insta-head tubes incorporated in activator (Figs 8 and 9).

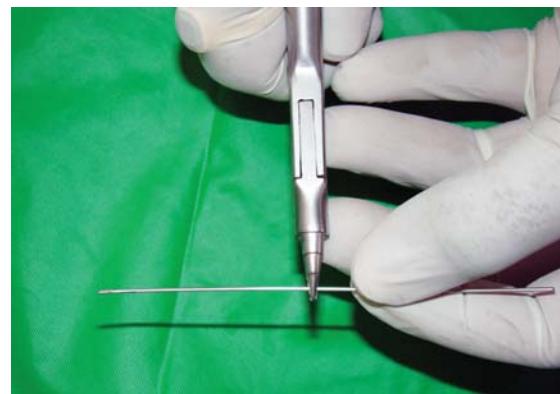


Fig. 1: A 19 gauge (1.0 mm) wire to prepare head gear tube

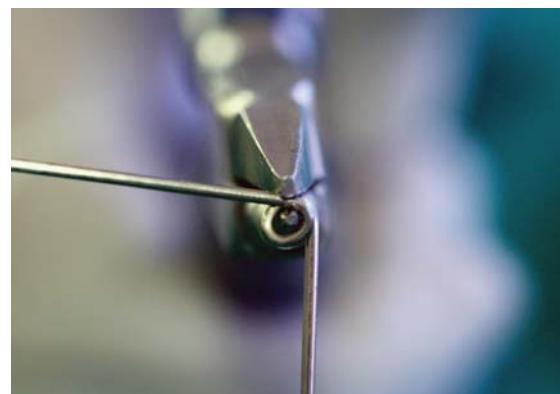


Fig. 2: Wire bent to form 3 to 4 continuous coils, keeping an internal diameter of nearly 0.45 inches



Fig. 3: Insta-head 'tube'

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Fig. 4: Insta-head incorporated into the wax bite, exactly in the same manner in which activator headgear tube is inserted

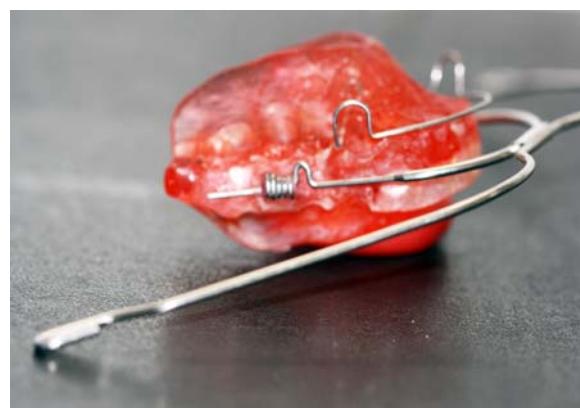


Fig. 7: Facebow inserted into the insta-head tube



Fig. 5: Insta-head tube after activator acrylization



Fig. 8: Intraoral photograph of patient wearing facebow in insta-head tube

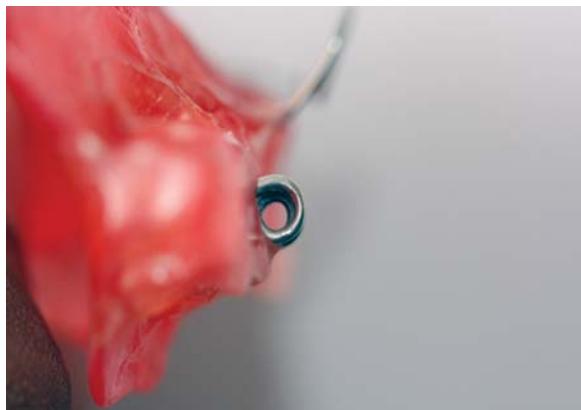


Fig. 6: Uniform internal diameter of insta-head tube maintained (nearly 0.45 inches)



Fig. 9: Extraoral photograph of the same patient

The advantages of the ‘insta-head’ over the preformed activator headgear tube are instant chairside fabrication, which can be either incorporated by clinician or given to the lab person for placement, no sophisticated armamentarium is required for preparation, extremely economic, easy to clean up, and works with equal efficiency, as that of the preformed activator headgear tube. Additionally, it can be used in cases of bonded acrylic

splints for easy elastic placement. In cases of skeletal Class III correction, vertical incorporation of insta-head tube can be helpful for extraoral elastic engagement.

REFERENCE

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