Fabrication of Patient’s Elastic Placer

ABSTRACT

Successful treatment outcome go hand in hand with the appropriate use of elastics. Many patients find difficult to engage to and remove the elastics from the intraoral attachments/hooks. This task is often frustrating and in turn lead to poor compliance and inefficient settling. The present article describes a simple immediate approach for the fabrication of a user-friendly elastic placer.

Keywords: Elastics, Intraoral attachments/hooks, Elastic placer.

INTRODUCTION

Elastics serve as an efficient force delivery system and their use is indispensable to any orthodontic treatment regimen. Successful treatment outcome go hand in hand with the appropriate use of elastics. The efficiency of the wear of elastics depends largely on patient compliance and which in turn is dependent on the ease of application. The configurations of the elastics range from quite simple to rather complex. Some prescriptions are easily learned by the patients while others require a great deal of effort. Finishing and detailing stage of orthodontic mechanotherapy requires meticulous use of multiple intraoral elastics that demands extreme patience and compliance for daily wear by the patients. Many patients find difficult to engage to and remove the elastics from the intraoral attachments/hooks. This task is often frustrating and in turn lead to poor compliance and inefficient settling.

To overcome the elastics application hurdle, an auxiliary like ‘elastic placer’ is commercially available that help patients wear their elastics with ease. However, the use of such devices is less popular among Indian orthodontists. The present article describes a simple immediate approach for the fabrication of a user-friendly elastic placer.

FABRICATION

Take approximately 20 cm length of 18-gauge stainless steel wire and at one end of the wire, form a hook that is closed enough to hold the elastic. About 5 cm from the hook, form an angle of about 30° to the wire in the same plane as the hook (Fig. 1).

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Engaging the Elastic

Hold the elastic with the hook of the elastic placer (Fig. 4) and hook it intraorally to one end of the desired placement area (intraoral attachment) and stretch it to engage it to the

Further, about 5 cm from the angulation, form a rounded ‘M’ bend in the same plane but in the opposite direction as of the hook (Fig. 2). The free end of the wire is carried toward the angulation and fastened either by a solder joint (see Fig. 2) or wound upon (Fig. 3). The ‘M’ bend acts as a pusher.
other end (Figs 5 to 7). Continue engaging the elastics to other sites.

**Removal of the Elastic**

Hold the elastic with the pusher and move it in an upward, outward and downward direction, to disengage the elastic from the intraoral attachments (Figs 8 and 9).

**CONCLUSION**

The custom made stainless steel elastic placer is simple to fabricate and instantly ready for use. It is intended to greatly improve the patient cooperation and successful treatment outcome.

**REFERENCES**