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Congenitally missing teeth in orthodontic treatment

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One of the challenges the orthodontist might face in the daily practice, patients with congenitally missing teeth with anterior and posterior spaces. The case is known as hypodontia, it could be mild to moderate (few teeth) or severe (more teeth to complete absence). In the anterior region, the most commonly are the maxillary lateral incisors or the mandibular central incisors and in the posterior region the mandibular or maxillary second premolars. The treatment strategy will be either to close the space or open it and replace the missing teeth with different modalities. In the anterior spaces a resin bonded bridge, a conventional fixed partial denture, implants or transplantation can be used when decided to open the space, or using canines to replace maxillary lateral incisors when decided to close the spaces. For the posterior spaces the choice is to upright the first molars and use conventional fixed partial dentures or implants. Each decision has its criteria, indications, contraindications, advantages and disadvantages. The treatment planning needs good interdisciplinary team work with good diagnosis tools (study models, radiographs, photos and diagnostic wax up).

Biography

Ali Alharbi graduated from King Saud University with a BDS in 1994 and completed his Orthodontic speciality SBO-Ortho from the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He is currently working as an Orthodontic Consultant at the Security Forces Hospital, Dental department. He is also involved in Saudi Board Residents training. He has 2 publications and is involved in a part time practice at the private sector.

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