

## Letter to the Editor

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### Prediction of the outcome of orthodontic treatment of Class III malocclusion

Sir

In the latest issue of the *European Journal of Orthodontics* the readers can find a systematic review article by Fudalej *et al.* (2011) on prediction models for the outcomes of orthodontic treatment of Class III malocclusions. We would like to express several concerns regarding this article.

First of all, in the review that Fudalej and associates have conducted they have grouped together the effects of appliances for Class III correction that are very much different in nature, target of correction, and *modus operandi*. The authors mixed together chin caps, RME and facemasks, functional appliances, orthopaedic appliances, and so on. This is not allowed, because prediction of results for one family of these devices can be extremely different from the results regarding a different family of appliances.

Further, there are several statements reported in the paper that are inaccurate. For example, our research group used exactly the same method error analysis in two of the articles included in the review (Franchi *et al.*, 1997, Baccetti *et al.*, 2004), while the quality of the method error analysis of the two papers was judged differently in the review (see Table 3, Fudalej *et al.* 2011).

More importantly, in different parts of the paper, Fudalej *et al.* state that none of the examined articles had tested the

validity of the prediction model on a sample that was different from the one used to construct the prediction model. On the contrary, Baccetti *et al.* (2004) clearly report that this important procedure was indeed performed and that the results were validated (last sentence of the Results section).

Finally, the authors of the review did not devote any attention to the description of skeletal maturation of treated subjects in the examined studies, a fundamental aspect of dentofacial orthopaedics.

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#### References

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