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A method of measuring the apical base

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ABSTRACT

The maxillary and mandibular apical base areas were measured, using a gnathograph, on the study casts of 156 adults and children representing Class II division 1, Class II division 2 and Class III malocclusions. There were significant differences between the groups at each age. The maxillary apical base areas tended to be smaller for the adults than for the children in all three occlusal classes. By contrast, the mandibular apical base areas tended to be larger for the adults than for the children, except in Class II division 1 malocclusion. Following a logarithmic transformation to stabilize the variance, regression lines were fitted to relate the size of the maxillary and mandibular apical bases to one another, for the malocclusion groups within each age group. The method gives additional information regarding the degree of apical base discrepancy in a given case, but more work is required before it can be used as a diagnostic tool.

Pages 479-483

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