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Mandibular incisor extraction: indications and long-term evaluation

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ABSTRACT

The extraction of a lower incisor constitutes a therapeutic alternative limited to certain occlusal situations, i.e. supernumerary incisors, tooth size anomalies (peg-shaped upper laterals), ectopic eruption and anterior crossbites. The effect of the extraction of a single incisor on the out of retention alignment of lower anterior teeth was studied in 26 treated cases. Initial (T1), final (T2) and 5-8 years out of retention (T3) dental casts were measured. Mean crowding at the start of treatment (T1=3.86 mm) relapsed out of retention (T3=1.49 mm), with a net mean improvement of 2.37 mm. Little's irregularity index at the start of treatment (T1=6.44) relapsed out of retention (T3=2.53), with a net mean improvement of T1-T3=3.91. Alignment stability seems to be better than that achieved in cases subjected to premolar extraction.

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