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Reply

Sir,

There were several concerns by Drs Zhou Yu and Hu Rong Dang regarding the article published in EJO entitled 'Comparison of self- and conventional-ligating brackets in the alignment stage' (Megat Abdul Wahab *et al.*, 2012). The explanations are as follows.

The patients in this study were randomly allocated by a 'toss of a coin' and also stratified according to their gender although the number of male and female patients was not the same. Although there is some research indicating that crowding in children may be relieved more easily than in adults. In our previous research we noted that there was no difference in the canine retraction between children and adults (Megat Abdul Wahab *et al.*, 2009). The Mini Diamond™ brackets showed a significant difference in crowding alleviation only from T1 to T2 in Table 2. In Table 3, the conventional-ligating brackets (CLB) showed 98 per cent of crowding alleviation whilst the self-ligating brackets (SLB) showed 67 per cent. So, the CLB was found to be superior to the SLB in crowding alleviation. It was worded as such in the journal as the trend nowadays focuses more on the SLB usage. In Table 1, it was noted that there were no differences in the mean pre-treatment

LII between the groups (SLB and CLB). The study was only performed for 4 months due to usage of only 1 archwire (0.014 in NiTi) in the leveling and alignment stage. We anticipated that by the fourth month all crowding would have been aligned and leveled. Perhaps with other archwires sequence usage, an observational study of more than 4 months could be done.

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References

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