

CANINE ANGULATION AND ROTATION DURING CANINE RETRACTION USING ELASTOMERIC CHAINS WITH AND WITHOUT A POWER ARM

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ABSTRACT

Background: During canine retraction, orthodontic forces are applied away from the tooth's center of resistance. This introduces canine distal tipping and mesiobuccal rotation. The correction of these unwanted movements will prolong treatment time. Applying the force closer to the center of resistance should decrease this unwanted tooth movement.

Objective: Compare the canine angulation and rotation during canine retraction with and without the use of power arm.

Materials and Methods: Twenty-four female orthodontic patients (age 19.32 ± 4.17 years) with dental Class II indicated for bilateral maxillary first premolar extraction and maximum anchorage were included in this study. The canines were retracted with elastomeric chains over 0.017×0.025 " stainless steel arch wires to reduce friction. The retraction force was 150g. In twelve patients, the canines were retracted using a power arm fixed to the vertical slots of the canine brackets. For the other twelve patients, the elastic chains were attached to the bracket hooks.

Results: Before treatment, the canine angulation and rotation was similar for the two groups. The canine angulation was 12.38 ± 8.27 and $14.5^\circ \pm 9.41$ for the group with the power arm and without, respectively. while canine rotation was $64.74^\circ \pm 11.65$ and $63.12^\circ \pm 14.88$, respectively. Post-retraction, there was no significant difference in the canine angulation or rotation between the groups.

Conclusion: Compared to canine retraction with a power arm, conventional canine retraction with elastomeric chains attached to the bracket hook may provide similar control over distal tipping, provided a stiff $0.017" \times 0.025"$ stainless steel arch wire is used.

KEYWORDS: Canine retraction, power arm, canine angulation, canine rotation

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INTRODUCTION

Frequently, orthodontic patients require first premolar extraction to relief arch-length to tooth-size discrepancy. With friction mechanics, the canine is retracted along the orthodontic archwire to close the extraction space. The distal force is applied labially or lingually to the long axis of the tooth and at the level of the bracket away from the tooth's center of resistance. This produces rotational moments causing a distal-in canine rotation and distal crown tip.^[1] A rigid arch wire and tight ligature wire can produce a counter moment to set off the rotational couple produced by the distal force. However, the flexibility of the arch wire and ligature ties as well as the arch wire-bracket slot play will always allow a degree of canine rotation and tipping.

The use of a power arm extending gingivally towards the tooth's center of resistance, as a point of force application, will reduce distal tipping as recommended by Ansari based on a finite element study.^[2] Similarly, AlKebsi et al^[3] reported clinically insignificant amounts of canine tipping and rotation when the canines were retracted using power arms.

The aim of this study was to compare the canine angulation and rotation during canine retraction using elastomeric chains with and without a power arm.

Methodology

This is a retrospective cohort study where the records of patients treated in the Orthodontic Department at FUE were analyzed. The study method was approved by the Institutional Review Board of Faculty of Dentistry, Future University in Egypt. Twenty-four quadrants in twelve female patients with Class II malocclusion had recently completed canine retraction. Their mean age at the start of retraction was 19.32 ± 4.17 years. All patients were indicated for bilateral maxillary first premolar extraction and required maximum anchorage. All patients were fitted bonded with conventional Roth prescription brackets. Levelling

and alignment were completed. Canines were retracted, in twenty-four maxillary quadrants, using elastomeric chains (American Orthodontics, USA). The canines were retracted over $0.017 \times 0.025''$ stainless steel archwires. The elastic chain was attached to a miniscrew (3M Unitek TAD, St. Paul, Minn., 8 by 1.6 mm), placed between the second premolar and first maxillary molar, and a power arm at the canine bracket. The power arms were formed of $0.016'' \times 0.022''$ stainless steel wires and were 8mm in height. They were secured in the vertical slot of the canine bracket using flowable light-cured composite. The retraction force was 150g, verified with a force gauge (The elastic chains were replaced every 4 weeks) (Fig. 1).

These patients were matched to twelve other patients with the same criteria, sex and age from the clinic records, who were receiving orthodontic treatment during the same time period (May 2018 to April 2019). The maxillary canines in the matched patients were retracted with the same methodology except the canines were retracted over a $0.017'' \times 0.025''$ arch wire and the elastic chains were stretched between the miniscrew and the hook of the canine bracket instead of a power arm.

Pre-treatment and post-retraction cone beam computer tomograms were available for all the patients. The Invivo Dental 5 software (version 5.3.1, Company, Santa Clara, Calif.) was used to

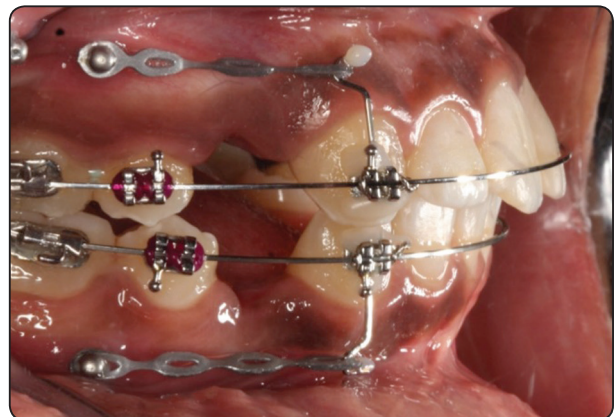


Fig. (1): Retraction of a maxillary canine using an elastomeric chain extended between a power arm at the canine bracket and miniscrew.

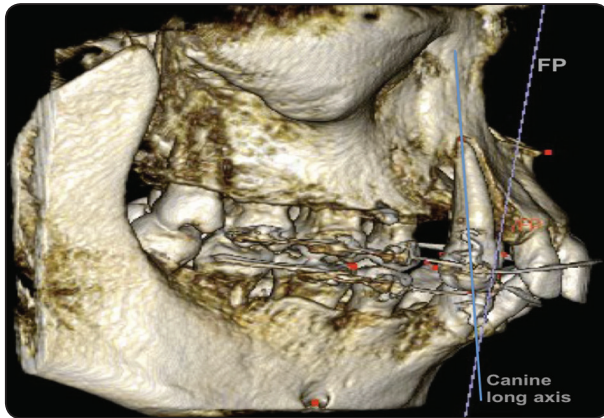


Fig. (2): The Frontal Plane (FP); reference plane passing through the incisive foramen and the canine long axis; cusp tip to root apex.

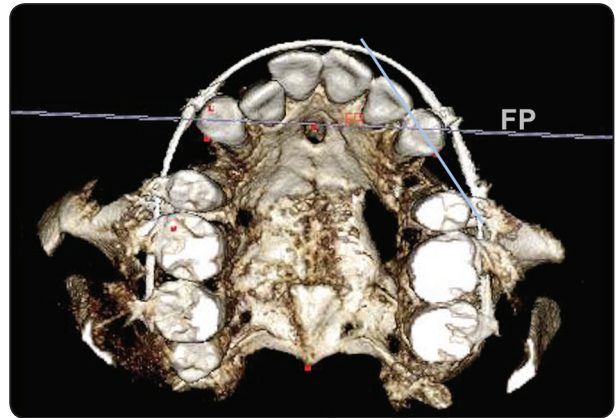


Fig. (3): Canine rotation measured as the outer angle between a line connecting the mesial and distal contact points of the canine crown and the Frontal Plane (FP).

import the digital imaging and communications in medicine images and to construct the 3D images. The frontal plane was constructed orthogonally to the mid-sagittal and horizontal planes. (Fig. 2) Canine angulation was measured as the angle between the long axis of the canine, from cusp tip to root apex, and the frontal plane. The canine rotation was measured as the Canine rotation measured as the outer angle between a line connecting the mesial and distal contact points of the canine crown and the frontal plane. (Fig. 3)

Statistical analysis

The data for the canine angulation and rotation in each group was evaluated for normality using the

Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. The power arm and no power arm groups were compared before the start of treatment and at the end of canine retraction for canine angulation and rotation using the t-test. All tests were set at 95% confidence level.

RESULTS

Forty-eight quadrants, 24 in each group, were analyzed. The data showed normal distribution. The power arm and no power arm groups showed no statistical difference for canine angulation and rotation at the start of treatment. (Table 1) There was no statistical difference between the two groups for canine angulation or rotation (Table 2)

TABLE (1) Baseline descriptive statistics of canine angulation and rotation for the power arm and no power arm groups.

	Canine retraction with power arm n=24	Canine retraction without power arm n=24	t	p-value
Canine angulation (°)	22.62± 8.82	23.88± 7.94	-0.5198	0.6057
Canine rotation (°)	43.17± 13.52	50.81± 13.65	-1.9898	0.0526

TABLE (2) Descriptive statistics and comparison of post-retraction canine angulation and rotation for the power arm and no power arm groups.

	Canine retraction with power arm (n=24)	Canine retraction without power arm (n=24)	t	95% confidence interval	p-value
Canine angulation (°)	12.38± 8.27	14.5± 9.41	-0.8290	-12.7878, 2.8920	0.4114
Canine rotation (°)	64.74± 11.65	63.12± 14.88	-0.4205	-7.1320, 9.1807	0.6761

DISCUSSION

The correction of canine distal tipping and rotation after canine retraction can be a time-consuming process. Shpack et al^[4] showed that bodily movement reduced the time of canine retraction by 28 days in comparison to tipping followed by canine uprighting. While Daskalogiannakis and McLachlan^[5] showed no significant difference in canine tipping and rotation when continuous or interrupted forces were applied. However, Mezomo et al^[6] reported that upper canines rotation was minimized with self-ligating compared to conventional brackets.

Nanda^[7] described four phases of sliding mechanics. At first the archwire-bracket play produces uncontrolled tipping. Therefore, the use of arch wires of greater dimension can reduce tipping. The second phase occurs with the initial contact between the bracket slot and the arch wire, which produces a rotational couple leading to controlled tipping. If the arch wire is flexible, deformation will occur negating the moment. In Phase III, the moment to force ratio increases leading to translation movement. Finally, the moment of the couple exceeds that of the force leading to root uprighting. Thus, canine tipping may be reduced by allowing sufficient time for bodily movement and root uprighting.

Ziegler and Ingervall^[8] and Rhee et al^[9] reported that frictionless mechanics was more efficient in reducing canine tipping than sliding mechanics when retracting maxillary canines. The canines were retracted with less distal tipping with the spring (0.8°/mm) than with sliding mechanics (1.4/mm). In comparison, Hayashi^[10] et al reported 7.94° tipping after only 2 months of canine retraction.

Hayashi et al^[10] and Rhee et al^[9] showed some evidence that sliding mechanics provide better control over canine rotation than retraction springs. Hayashi et al^[10] reported a five times more rotation with retraction spring (22.06°) compared to 4.07°

in sliding mechanics, in two month of retraction. The rotation found in the present study was similar to that reported by Mezomo et al^[6] (12.2°) with conventional brackets. However, Ziegler and Ingervall^[8] showed similar amounts of canine rotation for 6 mm of retraction in sliding mechanics (24°) and frictionless mechanics (20°).

Clinically, the position of the power arms prevented a tight fit of the ligature wires over the canine brackets. Yet, the results did not show an increase in the canine rotation for the group retracted with power arms. To overcome the rotational moments and reduce canine rotation during canine retraction, the use of stiff arch wires, V-bends and tight bracket ligation is recommended.

Two studies used similar biomechanics to that applied in our study. Cousley^[11] retracted the canines using mini implants and a bonded power arm. After retraction the angulation was measured with a panoramic radiograph. The author reports no change in the initial angulation indicating control over the distal tipping. However, this data was reported for only two patients. The second study was a split-mouth randomized controlled trial conducted by Akin and Camcı.^[12] The authors retract the canines using mini-implants as indirect anchorage for the first permanent molars. The elastomeric chains were stretched between the molars and power arms. The height of the power arm was determined in a similar manner to that used in our study. The length was extended to the coronal third of the root. Their results are similar to ours. Canine tipping was similar with (3.62°±2.91) and without the power arms (4.82°±3.08). Rotation was 7.57°±4.70 and 8.49°±5.25 in the power arm and no power arm groups, respectively. The amounts of canine angulation and rotation was measured for the first 3 months. Had the trial continued until complete canine retraction, the tipping and rotation may have been as high as those reported in our study which lasted until canine retraction was completed.

The amount of tipping is relatively controlled in this study despite that the power arm may not be the cause. It may be attributed to the 0.017" X 0.025" stainless steel arch wire. According to the results of a systematic review conducted by Barlow and Kula,^[13] arch wires with larger dimensions had better control over tipping.

CONCLUSION

Within the limitations of this study and the inherent bias of retrospective studies, canine angulation and rotation were similar with and without the use of a power arm. Shpack et al^[4] showed similar results where bodily and tipping movements did not affect the degree of the canine rotation. Further well controlled studies should further investigate the effect of power arms on the canine tipping and rotation.

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