

Value of Early Treatment for Class II Malocclusion

Outcomes in a 2-Phase Randomized Clinical Trial of Early Class II Treatment.

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Take-Home Pearl: When compared with single-phase treatment in the late mixed or early permanent dentition, early 2-phase treatment of patients with Class II division 1 malocclusions provides no additional benefits.

Objective: To evaluate the effectiveness of 2-phase versus single-phase treatment for children with Class II division 1 malocclusions.

Design: This was a 2-phase, parallel, randomized trial.

Participants: 137 children who had Class II division 1 malocclusions with an overjet of at least 7 mm and had completed comprehensive treatment were evaluated using orthodontic casts, cephalometric data, and evaluation of treatment records.

Results: The results of this study indicate that early adolescent 2-phase treatment versus later adolescent single-phase treatment for the correction of Class II division 1 malocclusions is less efficient, produces no reduction in the average time a child is in fixed appliances during a second stage of treatment, and does not decrease the proportion of complex treatments involving extractions or orthognathic surgery required during the second phase of treatment.

Conclusions: Early 2-phase treatment of children with Class II division 1 malocclusions provides no benefits when compared with single-phase treatment initiated during the late mixed or early permanent dentition.

Reviewer's Comments: This was a well-conducted randomized clinical trial that clearly demonstrates the importance of basing treatment decisions on the results of valid research studies. Based on the results of this study and with the current emphasis on evidence-based treatment, you would have a hard time justifying early 2-phase treatment for patients with Class II division 1 malocclusions. (Reviewer—John S. Casko, DDS, MS, PhD).

Additional Keywords: class clinical early malocclusion treatment

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