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Demi*





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Severe Class III Malocclusion with Deep Overbite and Blocked-Out Canines: Conservative Correction with Premolar Extractions

Abstract

History: A 20-year-old female presented with chief complaints of a prominent chin and crowded teeth.

Diagnosis: Clinical examination revealed mandibular prognathism, blocked-out canines, skeletal Class III ($ANB = -3^\circ$), anterior crossbite, and deep overbite. The Discrepancy Index (DI) was 37.

Treatment: Bilateral upper and lower first premolars were removed to gain space for relieving the crowding and retracting the lower anterior segment to correct the anterior crossbite. A passive self-ligating (PSL) bracket system was bonded on the dentition with high-torque brackets on the lower incisors and low-torque brackets on the upper incisors.

Outcome: After 24 months of active treatment, this challenging full-cusp Class III malocclusion was corrected to a near ideal result. The Cast-Radiograph Evaluation (CRE) score was 19, with an excellent Pink and White dental esthetic score of 2. (J Digital Orthod 2023;70:28-42)

Key words:

Skeletal Class III, full-cusp Class III molar relationship, first premolar extraction, passive self-ligating brackets

Introduction

The dental nomenclature for this report is a modified Palmer notation with four oral quadrants: upper right (UR) and left (UL), as well as lower right (LR) and left (LL). Teeth are numbered 1-8 from the midline in each quadrant.

A 20-year-old female presented with chief complaints of anterior crossbite, crowding, and compromised facial esthetics (Figs. 1 and 2). The radiographic documentation of the malocclusion includes a lateral cephalometric film in centric occlusion (C_0) as well as in centric relation (C_R) positions (Figs. 3 and 4), panoramic radiograph (Fig.

6), and temporomandidular joint (TMJ) views (Fig. 7). This malocclusion was associated with skeletal Class III, anterior crossbite, and deep overbite. An anterior functional shift might have exaggerated her Class III malocclusion. To correct the full-cusp Class III and crowding, the patient and her family preferred camouflage treatment with extractions rather than orthognathic surgery to achieve an acceptable although compromised outcome.^{1,2}

History and Etiology

This developmental malocclusion was associated with mandibular prognathism (SNB, 85°). No contributing medical or dental histories were Linda Tsai, Training Resident, Beethoven Orthodontic Course (Left) Joshua S. Lin, Associate Director, Beethoven Orthodontic Course (Center left) Chris H. Chang, Founder, Beethoven Orthodontic Center Publisher, Journal of Digital Orthodontics (Center right) W. Eugene Roberts, Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Digital Orthodontics (Right)

reported. Clinical examination revealed a concave facial profile, lower lip protrusion, anterior crossbite, and crowding (Figs. 1-3).



The panoramic radiograph (Fig. 6) revealed that four wisdom teeth were missing. Lateral cephalometric radiograph revealed decreased inclination of both arches and a relatively straight



Fig. 1: Pre-treatment facial and intraoral photographs in centric occlusion (C_0)



Fig. 2: Pre-treatment dental models (casts) in C₀



Fig. 3: Pre-treatment lateral cephalometric radiograph in C₀



Fig. 4: Pre-treatment cephalometric radiograph in centric relation (C_R)



Fig. 5: Pre-treatment lateral profile photograph in C_R



Fig. 6: Pre-treatment panoramic radiograph

profile when the occlusion was in C_R (Figs. 4 and 5). The patient declined orthognathic surgery because of the potential for severe complications.³⁻⁵ She opted to seek conservative treatment for the problem with extractions.

Diagnosis

Skeletal: Mandibular Protrusion

- Class III relationship: SNA, 82°; SNB, 85°; ANB, -3°
- Mandibular plane angle: SN-MP, 41°; FMA, 34°

Dental:

• Occlusion: Bilateral full-cusp Class III molar relationships

- Overjet: -5.5 mm
- Upper Incisors: Retroclined (U1-to-NA, 2 mm; U1-to-SN, 93°)
- Lower Incisors: Retroclined (L1-to-NB, 5.5 mm; L1-to-MP, 81°)

Facial: Relatively protrusive lower lip

The UL-to-E-line^{7,8} cephalometric measurement was -2 mm, which is consistent with a retrusive upper lip (Fig. 5). However, the mandible was protrusive with a prominent chin, so the relatively protrusive lower lip was actually the problem. Carefully evaluating lip protrusion is an essential aspect in treatment planning.

The American Board of Orthodontics (ABO) Discrepancy Index (DI)⁹ was 37 points as shown in the subsequent Worksheet 1. The 19 points for overjet (OJ = -5.5 mm) in the DI worksheet indicated that it was a main issue of this case.

Treatment Objectives

After discussing available options with the patient, the following treatment objectives were established:



Fig. 7:

Pre-treatment TMJ transcranial radiographs show the right (R) and left (L) temporomandibular joints in rest and open positions. The condyle heads are outlined in red dotted lines.

- 1. Extract upper first premolars (UR4 and UL4) to resolve the space deficiency.
- 2. Extract lower first premolars (LR4 and LL4) to gain enough space to retract the lower anterior segment and correct the anterior crossbite.
- 3. Establish ideal overjet and overbite.

Treatment Alternatives

First Option: Use conventional molar anchorage to close the UR4 extraction space. With this treatment option, 70% of space closure is achieved by retracting the anterior teeth, and the remaining 30% by protracting the posterior teeth. The disadvantage of this option is the inclination of the lower incisors, which is an unfavorable outcome for the patient as her arches were already retroclined.

Second Option: The preferred orthognathic surgical option was Le Fort I with bilateral intraoral vertical ramus osteotomies. However, the patient declined surgery because of the hospitalization, high cost, and risk of complications.

Treatment Progress

All treatment and sequencing details are shown in Table 2 and illustrated in Figs. 8-10.

Two months following the prescribed extractions, 0.022" slot Damon Q® passive self-ligating (PSL) brackets (Ormco, Brea, CA) were bonded on the lower teeth with a 0.014-in copper-nickel-titanium (CuNiTi) archwire engaged. Torque selection of the lower incisors was high torque, so upside-down low-torque brackets were bonded on the lower incisors to serve

Appointment	Archwire	Notes
1 (0 month)	L : 0.014-in Damon CuNiTi	Bond all lower teeth except all 4s, which were extracted. High- torque brackets were selected.
		Bond all upper teeth. Insert open-coil spring to create space for UR2 and UL2.
2 (1 month)	U/L: 0.014-in Damon CuNiTi	Low-torque brackets for UL2 and UL2; high-torque brackets for UR3 and UL3
		Apply early light power chains from UR3 to UR6 and UL3 to UL6. Place bite turbos on the occlusal surfaces of LR7 and LL7.
		Remove posterior bite turbos. Place anterior bite turbos from LR2 to LL2.
$3 \sim 3$ (3~8 months)	U/L: 0.014x0.025-in Damon CuNiTi	Prescribe tongue depressor to correct anterior crossbite.
		Apply early light short elastics (Quail, 2 oz; Ormco) from UR6 to LR5 and UL6 to LL5.
		Change early light short Class III elastics to Fox (3.5 oz) from UR6 to
6 (10 months)	U/L : 0.017x0.025-in Damon TMA	LR3 and UL6 to LL3 to retract the mandibular anteriors.
		Remove anterior bite turbos, and place posterior bite turbos.
7 (11 months)	U: 0.014x0.025-in Damon CuNiTi	Rebond UR7 and UL7.
8 (12 months)	U: 0.014x0.025-in Damon CuNiTi	Rebond UR5, UR1, UL1, UL2, and UL5. 15° archwire adjustment.
9 (13 months)	U/L: 0.017x0.025-in Damon TMA	Class III elastics (Fox, 3.5 oz) from UR6 to LR3 and UL6 to LL3 to retract mandibular anteriors
10 (14 months)	U/L · 0 017x0 025-in Damon TMA	Perform interproximal reduction from UR2 to UL2.
		Close all extraction spaces with power chains.
11 (15 months)	11/1 · 0.017x0.025-in Damon TMA	Rebond LR3, LR1, UL5, and LL1.
		Torquing springs were applied on UR3 and UL3.
12 (16 months)	U/L: 0.017x0.025-in Damon TMA	Torquing springs were applied on LL5 and LR5.
13 (18 months)	U/L: 0.017x0.025-in Damon TMA	Perform interproximal reduction from LL2 to LR2.
16 (21 months)	U/L: 0.017x0.025-in Damon TMA	Instruct patient to hook elastics from UR3 to LR5 and UL3 to LL5.
17 (22months)	U : 0.017x0.025-in Damon TMA L : 0.017x0.025-in Damon TMA	Instruct patient to hook intermaxillary elastics from UR7 to LR7 and UL7 to LL7.
		Remove all appliances.
18 (24months)		Place fixed retainers from 3 to 3 on both arches, and removable clear overlay retainers for both arches were prescribed for retention.

Table 1: Treatment sequence



Fig. 8:

A progressive series of upper occlusal photographs show treatment progress and the archwire sequence for the upper arch in months (M) from the beginning of the treatment (0M) to nineteen months (19M).



Fig. 9:

A progressive series of lower occlusal photographs show treatment progress and the archwire sequence for the lower arch in months (M) from the beginning of the treatment (0M) to nineteen months (19M).



Fig. 10 :

A progressive series of right buccal photographs show treatment progress in months (M) from the beginning of the treatment (OM) to nineteen months (19M).



Fig. 11: Posttreatment dental models (casts) in centric occlusion



Fig. 12: Posttreatment panoramic radiograph

as high-torque brackets to provide more lingual root torque. The sequence for lower archwire was 0.014-in CuNiTi, 0.014x0.025-in CuNiTi, and 0.017x0.025-in TMA.

In the following months, the brackets were bonded in the upper arch with a 0.014-in CuNiTi archwire. The archwire sequence for upper arch was 0.014-in CuNiT, 0.014x0.025-in CuNiTi, and 0.017x0.025-in TMA. From the 5th to the 8th months of treatment, early light Class III elastics were used from U6s to L5s. In the 11th and 12th months, the brackets were re-bonded on UR7, UL7, UR5, UR1, UL1, UL2, and UL5 for better alignment, and the archwire was changed from 0.017x0.025-in TMA to 0.014x0.025-in CuNiTi for better fitting in the bracket slots.

By the 12th month, the anterior crossbite was corrected. From the 13th month till the end of the treatment, the archwires for both arches were 0.017x0.025-in TMA. In the 15th month, torquing springs were used on UR3 and UL3 to achieve more lingual root torque. In the 22nd month, intermaxillary



Fig. 13: Posttreatment facial and intraoral photographs



Fig. 14: Posttreatment lateral cephalometric radiograph

elastics were used from UR7 to LR7 and UL7 to LL7 to improve the occlusion. In the 24th month, all appliances were removed.

Retention

Fixed retainers were bonded on all mandibular and maxillary canines and incisors (3-3). Removable clear overlay retainers were also delivered for both arches for full-time wear for the first 6 months and nights only thereafter. Instructions were also given for home hygiene and maintenance of the retainers.



Fig. 15:

Superimposed cephalometric tracings show dentofacial changes over active 24 months of treatment (red) compared to the pre-treatment records (black). See text for details.

Treatment Result

After 24 months of active treatment, both the patient and the clinician were satisfied with the outcomes (Figs. 11-14). Correcting the anterior crossbite improved the patient's profile because the lower lip was retracted. Both arches were well aligned in a near ideal Class I occlusion with coincident midlines. Posttreatment panoramic radiograph showed good axial alignment of the dentition (Fig. 12), and cephalometric superimpositions revealed that the mandibular incisors were retracted about 7 mm with acceptable axial inclination (Fig. 15). These results indicated the retroclination of lower anterior teeth would become worse without the high-torque brackets in the archwire. The 2 mm flaring of the maxillary incisors

	Ext.	Not
I. Profile	Protrusive	Straight
2. Md. angle	High	Low
3. Bite	Open	Deep
4. Ant. inclination	Flaring	Flat
5. Crowding	> 7mm	None
6. Decay/missing	Present	????
7. P't perception	ОК	No
8. Etc		

Table 2:

According to Chang's extraction decision chart, the current case presented favorable factors for an extraction treatment, including a protrusive facial profile and crowding > 7 mm.

Profile: Orthognathic profile at C_R position **Class:** Canine and molar Class I relationship FS: Functional shift ($C_0 \neq C_R$)



Lin's Class III diagnostic system evaluates whether Class III malocclusion patients require surgery or not based on profile, functional shift, and dental classification.

from the original anterior-posterior (A-P) plane was acceptable. Although the data in the chart was not perfect, the result was satisfactory for a severe skeletal Class III malocclusion. Using Class III elastics may rotate the mandible clockwise by extrusion of the lower molars, and retracting the lower incisors improved the profile by correcting the protrusive lower lip (Fig. 15).

The Cast-Radiograph Evaluation (CRE)¹⁰ score was 19 points, as shown in the supplementary Worksheet 2. The major residual discrepancies were the buccolingual inclination (3 points), occlusal contacts (10 points), and occlusal relationship (3 points). Dental esthetics were acceptable with a Pink and White esthetic score of 2, as shown in Worksheet 3. After 24 months of active treatment, the patient was very pleased with the outcomes achieved by this conservative treatment.

Discussion

Orthognathic surgery is a treatment method for malocclusions with skeletal or dentoalveolar anomalies that cannot be corrected with tooth movement alone.³ This patient's overjet was -6 mm, and her molar discrepancy was 5 mm Class III. According to the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, she may need an orthognathic surgery, because the horizontal overjet is zero or negative and the A-P molar discrepancy is \geq 4 mm Class III. However, camouflage treatment could solve the problem with an acceptable compromised result that is associated with less pain and minimal surgery.

1. Lin's 3-Ring Diagnosis and Chang's Extraction Table

Lin's 3-Ring Diagnosis^{11,12} should be used to evaluate whether Class III malocclusion patients are eligible for a camouflage treatment or not (Fig. 16). The patient's profile was good in centric relation (C_R), with an orthognathic profile (acceptable facial balance), buccal segments near Class I, and an A-P functional shift of ~3 mm into maximal intercuspation. To achieve a more functional occlusion, Class III malocclusion patients may subconsciously protrude the mandible and result in incisal interference. A non-surgical treatment may be feasible by correcting the functional shift and increasing lower facial height.

Chang's^{13,14} extraction decision table (Table 2) provides good indications for designing the treatment plan. Since both arches of this patient were crowded, four bicuspid extractions could efficiently relieve the crowding while maintaining the nasolabial angle.

CEPHALOMETRIC SUMMARY					
	PRE-TX	POST-TX	DIFF.		
SKELETAL ANALYSIS					
SNA° (82°)	82°	83°	1°		
SNB° (80°)	85°	82°	3°		
ANB° (2°)	-3°	1°	4°		
SN-MP° (32°)	41°	45°	4°		
FMA° (25°)	34°	38°	4°		
DENTAL ANALYSIS					
U1 TO NA mm (4 mm)	2	4	2		
U1 TO SN° (104°)	93°	102°	9°		
L1 TO NB mm (4 mm)	5.5	4	1.5		
L1 TO MP° (90°)	81°	66°	15°		
FACIAL ANALYSIS					
E-LINE UL (-1 mm)	-2	-2	0		
E-LINE LL (0 mm)	4	-1	5		
%FH: Na-ANS-Gn (53%)	56%	56%	0%		
Convexity: G-Sn- Pg' (13°)	-1°	0°	1°		

Table 3: Cephalometric summary



Fig. 17:

Upside-down low torque brackets (-11 °) results in high-torque (+11 °) in the lower arch. See text for details.

2. Torque selection

When lingually-tipped lower incisors (L1-MP, 81°) are retracted, torque is best controlled using high-torque brackets. Turning low-torque brackets upside down is a good way to produce high-torque effect on the lower arch (Fig. 17).¹⁵ Otherwise, placing a pre-torqued archwire such as 0.016x0.025-in or 0.019x0.025-in NiTi can also produce high torque effect. When comparing the pre-treatment and posttreatment cephalometric measurements (Table 3; Fig. 15), there was substantial incisor torque loss (81-66°).

3. Bite turbos

Bite turbos (glass ionomer cement or glass ionomer resin, occlusal bite raisers) placed in the posterior segment are effective to open the bite and prevent premature occlusal contact on brackets. Using bite turbos in the anterior segments is an effective and efficient way to correct an anterior crossbite. All teeth were aligned in eight months.

Conclusions

To decide the treatment plan for Class III malocclusion requires a thoughtful evaluation. Lin's 3-Ring diagnosis can help to determine if the problem is suitable for conservative treatment or requires orthognathic surgery. When camouflage treatment was deemed feasible, Chang's extraction table clarified that the deficiency of space could be relieved by extraction effectively and efficiently. With the right torque selection, desirable outcomes were achieved in only 24 months. In retrospect, the

treatment time could be reduced with a thorough diagnosis, a well thought out treatment plan, and clinical tips. Since the L1-to-MP angle was 66° in the end, stability and maintenance of the occlusion need long-term follow-up.

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Discrepancy	y Inc	lex Worksheet
TOTAL D.I. SCOR	RE	37
<u>OVREJET</u>		
0 mm. (edge-to-edge) =	
1 - 3 mm.		0 pts.
3.1 - 5 mm.	=	2 pts.
5.1 - 7 mm.	=	3 pts.
7.1 - 9 mm.	=	4 pts.
> 9 mm.	=	5 pts.
Negative OJ (x-bite)	1 pt. p	er mm. Per tooth =
Total	=	19
<u>OVERBITE</u>		
0 - 3 mm.	=	0 pts.
3.1 - 5 mm.	=	2 pts.
5.1 - 7 mm.	=	3 pts.
Impinging (100%)	=	5 pts.
Total	=	2
ANTERIOR OPEN	BITE	
0 mm. (Edge-to-edge Then 1 pt. per addition	e), 1 pt. onal ful	per tooth l mm. Per tooth

Total



=

=

LATERAL OPEN BITE

2 pts. per mm. Per tooth

Total

∧	
U U	

<u>CROWDING</u> (only one arch)

、 ,		/
1 - 3 mm.	=	1 pt.
3.1 - 5 mm.	=	2 pts.
5.1 - 7 mm.	=	4 pts.
> 7 mm.	=	7 pts.
Total	=	7

Total	
-------	--



OCCLUSION

Class I to end on End on Class II or III Full Class II or III Beyond Class II or III	= = =	0 pts. 2 pts. per side 2 pts. 4 pts. per side 4 pts. 1 pt. per mmpts. additional
Total	=	6

LINGUAL POSTERIOR X-BITE							
1 pt. per tooth	Total	= 3					
BUCCAL POSTER	BUCCAL POSTERIOR X-BITE						
2 pts. Per tooth	Total	= 0					
<u>CEPHALOMETRI</u>	<u>CS</u> (See Instruct	tions)					
ANB $\geq 6^{\circ} \text{ or } \leq -2^{\circ}$		= 4 pts.					
Each degree $< -2^{\circ}$ _	x 1 pt.	=					
Each degree $> 6^{\circ}$	x 1 pt.	=					
SN-MP							
\geq 38°		= 2 pts.					
Each degree > 38°_	x 2 pts.	=					
$\leq 26^{\circ}$		= 1 pt.					
Each degree < 26°_	x 1 pt.	=					
1 to MP \ge 99°		= 1 pt.					
Each degree > 99°_	x 1 pt.	=					
	Total	= 0					

<u>OTHER</u> (See Instructions)

Supernumerary teeth x 1 pt. =
Ankylosis of perm. Teeth x 2 pts. =
Anomalous morphology x 2 pts. =
Impaction (except 3 rd molars) x 2 pts. =
Midline discrepancy (≥ 3mm)
Missing teeth (except 3 rd molars) x 1 pt. =
Missing teeth, congenital x 2 pts. =
Spacing (4 or more, per arch) x 2 pts. =
Spacing (Mx cent. diastema ≥ 2 mm) @ 2 pts. =
Tooth transposition x 2 pts. =
Skeletal asymmetry (nonsurgical tx) @ 3 pts. =
Addl. treatment complexities x 2 pts. =

Identify:

Total





in the white box. Mark extracted teeth with "X". Second molars should be in occlusion.

IBOI Pink & White Esthetic Score





1. Pink Esthetic Score





2. White Esthetic Score (for Micro-esthetic)





1. M & D Papillae	0	1	2	
2. Keratinized Gingiva	0	1	2	
3. Curvature of Gingival Margin	0	1	2	
4. Level of Gingival Margin	0	1	2	
5. Root Convexity (Torque)	0	1	2	
6. Scar Formation	0	1	2	
1. M & D Papillae	0	1	2	
2. Keratinized Gingiva	0	1	2	
3. Curvature of Gingival Margin	0	1	2	
4. Level of Gingival Margin	0 (1	2	
5. Root Convexity (Torque)	0	1	2	
6. Scar Formation	0	1	2	

Total =

1

Total =		1	
1. Midline	0	1	2
2. Incisor Curve	0	1	2
3. Axial Inclination (5°, 8°, 10°)	0	1	2
4. Contact Area (50%, 40%, 30%)	0	1	2
5. Tooth Proportion	0	1	2
6. Tooth to Tooth Proportion	0	1	2

1. Midline	0 1	2
2. Incisor Curve	0 1	2
3. Axial Inclination (5°, 8°, 10°)	0 1	2
4. Contact Area (50%, 40%, 30%)	0 1	2
5. Tooth Proportion	0 1	2
6. Tooth to Tooth Proportion	0 (1)	2

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