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Open Coil Spring Activation Simplified

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I. Introduction

The use of Niti open coil springs to open spaces between the teeth is quite frequent in orthodontics. However, when the coil spring becomes passive after the tooth has moved, it necessitates the removal of arch wire and placement of a new larger Niti open coil spring to activate further tooth movement. Another way of activating the coil spring with the help of composite bead was suggested[1]. However, we believe that it unnecessarily increases the inventory and chair-side time.

We have devised a simple effective way of reactivating the coil spring with the use of Anterior band material (0.125 x 0.003 inches) and instruments which are readily available in the clinic.

II. Technique

Cut an approximately 3 x 3 mm of incisor band material. In case of rectangular base arch wire, adapt the band segment around the sides of the ribbon arch plier forming a 3 – walled sheath (fig 1). After compressing the spring with the help of a wire tucker, place this segment with the open end towards the arch wire from the labial aspect (fig 2 and fig 3) and crimp it (fig 4).

III. Conclusion

This method provides the operator an easy and swift way of reactivating the coil spring with readily available armamentarium without the removal of arch wire.

IV. Figures Legend

Fig 1 : Band material adapted around Ribbon arch plier

Fig 2 : Compressing the passive coil spring with a wire tucker

Fig 3: Placing the band material sheath over the arch wire

Fig 4: After reactivation

References

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