

Orthodontic treatment and periodontal health

Orthodontic tooth movement may support periodontal health through adaptation of alveolar bone and gingival tissues but can also worsen periodontal health in presence of active periodontal disease or under unfavorable anatomical conditions. This lecture will cover one aspect of the periodontic/ orthodontic interrelation, namely the association between orthodontic treatment and development of gingival recession. Four main questions will be addressed: Is orthodontic tooth movement a major risk for gingival recession? Do orthodontically treated patients suffer in the long run more from gingival recession compared to untreated individuals? Does prolonged fixed retention influence the development of gingival recession? How can the periodontist assist in the prevention or treatment of gingival recession? The understanding of the association between orthodontic tooth movement and development of gingival recession is important because of the high number of children, teenagers and adults who are treated orthodontically.