

OP24 TREATMENT OF MISSING MAXILLARY LATERAL INCISORS. SPACE CLOSURE OR IMPLANT THERAPY?

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AIM: To evaluate the aesthetic results in patients with missing maxillary lateral incisors treated with implant therapy or orthodontic space closure.

SUBJECTS AND METHOD: Evaluation was performed by three groups: laymen between 20 and 30 years of age ($n = 26$), laymen between 50 and 70 years of age ($n = 26$) and professionals; specialist in orthodontics ($n = 25$). These three groups were asked to view photographs of 44 different cases where patients with one or two missing maxillary lateral incisors had been treated with either implant-borne crowns or orthodontic space closure. The participants were asked to evaluate the aesthetics of the dentition, the aesthetics related to the shape and colour of the tooth replacing the missing maxillary lateral incisor and the gingiva adjacent to the same tooth.

RESULTS: The survey received 77 responses with evaluations of the 44 cases. When comparing cases with implant-borne crowns and those with orthodontic space closure, of all the variables rated, there was only a difference concerning the gingival colour adjacent to the tooth replacing the missing maxillary lateral incisor, which was rated as better aesthetics in the space closing cases ($P < 0.000$). The professionals preferred the aesthetics of the dentition as a whole in the space closure cases ($P < 0.042$). The three groups did not differ concerning the evaluation of the cases with implant-borne crowns. Comparing the three groups when evaluating the cases with orthodontic space closure, the young laymen were more dissatisfied with the colour of the tooth replacing the missing lateral incisor ($P < 0.043$). The professionals were more satisfied with the colour of the gingiva adjacent to the replacing tooth compared to the laymen ($P < 0.000$).

CONCLUSIONS: When all rates were included there was no difference in the overall aesthetic result in patients treated with implant therapy or orthodontic space closure. The colour of the gingiva adjacent to implant-borne crowns had poorer aesthetic ratings. The professionals preferred the aesthetics of the dentition as a whole in the space closure cases.