Reviewer's report

**Title:** Use of the Intraosseous Screw for Unilateral Upper Molar Distalization and Found Well Balanced Occlusion

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 7 June 2006

**Reviewer:** Ulrike Ehmer

**Reviewer's report:**

This is a case report of an unilateral molar distalization using an intraosseus screw for maximum anchorage. The case is well treated and demonstrates that unilateral distalization is possible using a miniscrew. Looking at the journal’s instructions for authors under case reports, it is stated that case reports are welcome if they are exceptional or demonstrate unusual cases. I could not see that the present case fulfills one of these conditions. Moreover, at the end of the introduction section the authors wrote that this kind of distalization was already proved by other investigators, as well by a study of the submitting author, too. I therefore have the feeling, that this case report is a subset of the authors' previous study. Again, I can't see what this paper adds to the present orthodontic knowledge.

Case reports could be valuable for educational purposes and the present report might be useful if different treatment approaches (and their cost-benefit analysis) were discussed, e.g. various extraction alternatives. Could be an extraction of all residual first molars useful because of the missing lower left molar and the caries of the lower right molar? Do the lower right molar has a good (long term) prognosis?

In summary, the content of the present paper could be useful if the authors provide a case report for educational purposes. If the authors choose to provide such a case report the paper must be rewritten according to the author's instructions for case reports. For that reason it is possible to discuss various treatment alternatives and to emphasize why the chosen way had the greatest benefit for the patient. In view of the various available miniscrews it should be discussed whether midpalatal screw insertion is still the insertion region of choice. Moreover, the reader must be able to comprehend the procedure by a detailed description rather than to check the references and reading a previous paper.

**What next?:** Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published