Author’s response to reviews

Title: Impact of molar teeth distalization with clear aligners on occlusal vertical dimension: A retrospective study

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Reviewer Comments for Manuscript

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"Impact of teeth distalization with orthodontic aligners on occlusal vertical dimension: a retrospective study on class II subjects"

Editor Comments:

Dear authors, kindly revise your paper according to our reviewers’ suggestions.

Reviewer reports:

Alessandro Mangano, D.D.S., M.S. (Reviewer 1): Dear Authors,

This is an important article adding useful clinical and scientific seminal information to the literature. The article has been well scientifically designed and the statistical method were rigorous. I just recommend to add the pictures of a clinical case. My decision is to accept the article with the aforementioned minor discretionary revision.
Congratulations.

R: thanks to dr. Mangano. We added a picture of one of the considered clinical cases. This is a patient treated by dr K Ojima, one of the authors. Dr Ojima is publishing a report of his clinical cases with a single authorship; for this reason, he preferred to include in the present manuscript an intra-oral lateral view of the clinical case (in the present version, it is figure 3)

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Suleyman Kultalmiş Buyuk (Reviewer 2):

I have evaluated the original article "Impact of teeth distalization with orthodontic aligners on occlusal vertical dimension: a retrospective study on class II subjects" and my comments are below:

1. The title should be changed as 'Impact of molar teeth distalization with clear aligners on occlusal vertical dimension: A retrospective study'  
R: thanks for this suggestion. The title of the manuscript was properly changed

2. In Abstract, Background is too long. First and second sentences were modified and shortened.  
R: Thanks for this suggestion. We tried to reduce the background section, maintaining a clarity of the concept. We wrote: “A common strategy in the non-extraction treatment of Class II molar relationship is maxillary molar distalization, which could increase lower face height and cause clockwise mandibular rotation”

And you said that 'growing' patients. Your patients mean age is 22.7 y. They are adults, not growing patients.  
R: Thanks for the suggestion. We changed the term growing with “young adults”

3. In Abstract, Methods section, 'Lateral radiographs…' should be corrected as 'Lateral cephalometric radiographs…'. And all text should be checked in terms of this issue.  
R: thanks. The term was corrected all text.
4. Keywords should be re-arranged. Mesh Terms may be used.

R: The Keywords were re-arranged, using mesh terms. The following keywords were selected: Malocclusion, Angle Class II; Vertical Dimension; Tooth Movement Techniques; Orthodontic Appliances, Removable

4b. Number of Keywords should be reduced.

R: We selected 5 keywords

5. In Page 5, Line 82, ref 18 belongs to one of the authors of the text. Authors should either remove it or add other relevant references about the accelerated tooth movement in clear aligners patients.

R: thanks for this suggestion. We added the following references about accelerated tooth movement in clear aligners patients:

We wrote: “…it seems that this result could be improved if combined with photobiomodulation or other acceleration tooth movement systems [18–20]”

References 19 and 20 are:


6. In Page 5, Line 83, 'Attachments…' sentence should be omitted.

R: this sentence was omitted

7. In Page 6, Line 114, The reference about the SnGoGn should be added.

R: We put the following reference:

8. In Page 6, Line 112, Why did authors prefer hand traced? We are in digital era, and artificial intelligence is so popular. Moreover, artificial intelligence could determine the cephalometric points and calculate the measurements in cephalogram/3D images. At least, authors may use the digital cephalometric software programmes.

R: We agree with the reviewer, but the evaluation of some parameters, especially the molars mesio-distal tipping, was not present in our cephalometric software, so we decided to perform hand traced cephalograms.

9. Authors should perform the intra-class correlation co-efficients (ICC).

R: Thanks for this suggestion.

In the material and method sections we put the following sentence (line 121):

“The intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC) was also calculated, for the primary outcome, obtaining a value of 0.99”

10. In Page 7, Line 127, paired Student t test should be corrected as Paired-t test.

R: it was corrected

11. Results are too shallow, and postero-anterior cephalometric parameters should be added about the vertical dimension.

R: Thanks for the suggestion. We added variables that allow the evaluation of the anterior facial height, and the posterior facial height, as well as the relationship between anterior and posterior facial height.

In the material and methods section, we added the following sentence:

“…afterwards the relationship between the posterior facial height and the anterior facial height were calculated”.

In the results section we added the following sentence:

“…Similarly no statistically significant difference was observed for the linear measurements of vertical dimension (S-Go;N-Me)”
12. In Page 7, Line 133, SD should be explained.

R: It was corrected

13. The article English is poor. It must be edited by the professional Edit Service or native English speakers.

R: Thanks for the suggestion. The text was edited by an expert.

14. All references in the text and the reference section should be checked, carefully. Authors should read the Journal Author Guidelines.

R: Thanks. All the references have been checked and modified following the Journal Author Guidelines.