Reviewer’s report

Title: Occlusal height difference between maxillary central and lateral incisors: should aesthetic perception influence bracket placement?

Version: 1 Date: 26 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Michael Knösel

Reviewer’s report:

An interesting and different approach to incisor esthetics / perceptions; while most papers in this field use photo alteration by image software, these authors assessed incisor positions in female model advertisement photographs compared to dental photographs in orthodontic textbooks.

I am receiving this paper in an already refined state and following some previous revisions based on suggestions by two other reviewers, who have already addressed some relevant points.

Some minor suggestions:

The main drawback of this approach may be seen in a potential selection bias when choosing the photographs; the authors tried to address this by asking both lay persons and dental professionals to contribute images. Inclusion of photographs was by two examiners who may have had esthetic preferences. Maybe this potential bias could be addressed a little more in the discussion.

Measurements

Try to re-phrase wording that implies interpretation in this section, such as:

„ „Averaging" the real crown length using the standardized value of 10.5 mm, as described above, may have influenced our results". (I would also recommend to remove quotation marks, here).

Results

Try to avoid wording that implies interpretation in the result section, such as „It was interesting to note.."

Discussion

Potential drawbacks of the chosen method of using advertising photographs, such as the effect of variation in head position, have been adequately discussed.
Discrepancies of central / lateral OHDs were up to 0.77mm (between 0.62 and 1.39 mm) between advertisement photographs and orthodontic textbooks. Could be challenging from patient's point of view to judge final incisor position at the treatment planning stage, as suggested by the authors; maybe this consideration is more relevant during the final tx stages when it comes to finishing and final adjustments.

One more consideration: (Photogenic) females in advertisements or actresses are not necessarily Angle-Class I occlusion subjects. Moderately expressed Angle-Class II is not too rarely seen in photogenic females, and these could well be in this sample, too. Especially Angle-Class II/2 occlusions may have tendencies to stronger expressions of central / lateral OHDs. Maybe this topic of transferrability to the common orthodontic treatment target of Angle-Class I occlusion may be shortly touched in the discussion.

**Level of interest**
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

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