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Prologue to the Special Issue on Orthodontics

This special Orthodontic issue of the JPFA India section has been compiled from submitted manuscripts to share current trends in the clinical care of malocclusion and facial deformities with fellow dental professionals. The wide array of articles on the subject, include non-extraction treatment with mini-screw implant assisted molar distalisation and systematic review on lingual bonded retainers are relevant in day-to-day practice.

The Dentist is one of the first health professionals to follow the oro-dental health of an individual closely, and with the sound diagnostic ability he can help intercept malocclusion and its adverse consequences, thereby reducing the burden of complicated care. Traits of malocclusion such as traumatic bite, abnormal jaw relations, deleterious habits such as mouth breathing, and developing asymmetries have a better prognosis when intercepted early at the right age of growth phase. Therefore, by timely referral to orthodontist, a general dentist can contribute to the population with better psychological and oral health status.

The knowledge of facial harmony and occlusion expands the horizons of dental practice. Orthodontics is not just an aesthetic treatment, also many conditions affecting the quality of life are managed. It is well demonstrated in original research article substantiating the benefits of non-compliance mandibular advancement devices on airway. Extraction has always been the enigma in parent's minds who feel the need for braces treatment for their child, thereby correction of specific malocclusions by molar distalisation serves the purpose. A growing child with a small mandible, when helped by enhancing growth, gets multifold health benefits by establishing nasal respiration and preventing future obstructive sleep apnea.

Relatively recent innovations as self-ligating brackets whose advantages are applauded loud by some and denied by the few, and the debate is left on the evidence-based science to prove the truth.

Therefore, to better understand this science of malocclusion and dentofacial modulation by our readers, I am delighted to publish this version of the particular edition of the JPFA journal. I thank the authors for considering our journal to publish their work. I am furthermore thankful to our esteemed reviewers Dr. Anand Marya and Dr. Panchali Batra for their contribution in appraising this work with their expert perspective.

The whole objective of this special issue on orthodontics is to expose a dental professional to current trends so that he is empowered to make appropriate diagnosis and referral for specialized treatment and contribute to his patients' better oral health-related quality of life.

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