Forcetron: An Instrument to Aid in Retaining Various Components in Lingual Sheath

Abstract

Lingual sheath is used for various purposes in orthodontics especially for the incorporation of wire components into the treatment which includes TPA, Lingual arch, Quad helix, NiTi expanders etc. These components need to be retained in place using ligatures. But to prevent the use of ligature to enhance the oral hygiene we have introduced this instrument, which helps in snuggling the wire components to the sheath and retain it in place.

Keywords: Lingual sheath; TPA; Ligation; Fixation; Quad helix

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Introduction

With the increasing need for oral hygiene the use of ligatures in being replaced by self retaining appliances. In the need to retain various appliances in the lingual sheath, we have designed an instrument named as FORCETRON, which uses basic mechanism of spring force to fix the wire components to the lingual sheath thereby snugly fitting the component to the appliance system.

Instrument Design and Principle

Instrument is basically a modification of Crown remover (Figures 1A-1C). The instrument consists of: 1) Head; 2) Body (Shaft); 3) Spring; 4) Force knob; 5) Stopper; and 6) A tip.

Depending on the force required, the spring is compressed using force knob and left so that the spring back will create force which is transferred to the stopper then to the tip which presses the lingual sheath and thereby creates dent in the sheath so that the component is fit in sheath and do not come out by itself (Figure 2A and 2B).

Principle

The force of spring is transferred to the lingual sheath via stopper and the tip. The force producing component is the spring. The components fit into the sheath due to dent produced and friction which holds the wire component into the sheath.

Advantages

1. Easy to fabricate.
2. Easy to use.
3. No wire components are left near sheath, so helps in maintaining oral hygiene as there is no plaque retentive factor.
4. No soft tissue injury so no chances of ulceration to the tongue due to wires.
5. Cheap and can be sterilized.
Disadvantage

1. When used in periodontically weak tooth precaution should be taken as the force is transferred to the tooth.
2. When activated, creates a momentary pain to the patient.

Uses

It is used for attachment of following in the lingual sheath [1-7].

1. Trans-palatal arch.
2. Quad helix.
3. Lingual arch.
5. Nance button.
6. Tongue cribs.
7. Modified trans-palatal arch with sleeve etc.
References