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Palatally erupted maxillary lateral incisors may be a causative factor of mandibular deficiency

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Aim: The aim of this study was to evaluate the influence of palatally displaced maxillary incisors on mandibular growth in a group of Egyptian patients.

Material & Methods: The sample consisted of the digital lateral cephalograms of 24 patients with age range of 15-30 years during the permanent dentition stage. The radiographs were selected from the patient database of private practice in Cairo. The sample was divided into two groups each consisting of 12 patients. Group A had palatally displaced maxillary lateral incisors without crossbite. Group B had palatally displaced maxillary lateral incisors with crossbite. Cephalometric measurements were used to assess the anteroposterior skeletal malocclusion (SNA, SNB, ANB, Wits appraisal). Independent samples t-test was performed between two groups.

Results: Cephalometric measurements revealed statistically significant differences between groups A and B. Group A had skeletal Class II with retrognathic mandible while group B had skeletal Class I pattern with normal mandibular position. The maxilla was well positioned in relation to the cranial base. No statistically significant difference between genders was evident.

Conclusion: Palatally displaced maxillary lateral incisors without crossbite causes restraining effect on normal mandibular growth which results in skeletal Class II with mandibular deficiency.