

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Anterior open bite is relatively a common problem met by the orthodontist in clinical practice and requires adequate treatment for the correction of the vertical mal relationship.

Anterior open bite malocclusion is often associated with speech defects. The sounds usually affected are the sibilants. Anterior open bite permitting anterior escapage interferes with the normal production of sibilants.

It was aimed in this presented study to assess the speech defects associated with anterior open bite deformity. Also to assess the improvement, if any, of these defects after the completion of orthodontic treatment and bite closure.

The sample treated consisted of twenty patients, nine males and eleven females ranged in age from twelve to twenty years.

The criteria of selection were:

1. Open bite greater than three m.m. when measured as the linear vertical distance from the incisal edge of the most anterior mandibular incisor to the incisal edge of the opposing tooth or teeth.