

Question and Answer Department

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Question—What is a good method of preserving the profile line when making a roentgenogram of the head?

Answer—Prepare a mixture of vaseline and silver filings so that the former is well impregnated with the metal particles. Place this mixture in a large glass barrel syringe. Apply a thin line of the mixture on the median line of the face while the patient is in a reclining position or with the head well back. The heat of the body will cause the vaseline to flatten out so that there will be a sufficient thickness of the metal to make a dense white line on the negative. This line will be in such decided contrast to the underlying soft tissues that the profile will be well marked.

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Question—What makes the “toothy” appearance in so many treated orthodontic cases?

Answer—This may be the result of several conditions. The teeth may be anterior to their correct position in the skull, as in a case of double protrusion in which those teeth that have drifted forward have not been moved distally, but the treatment has consisted of simple expansion; or the maxillary lateral incisors may be labial to their normal positions in the arch or the maxillary cuspids may be over-expanded with the result that the anterior part of the arch seems too wide.

An article entitled *Orientation of Teeth in the Dental Arches*, by Dr. Cecil Steiner, in the January issue of the *Angle Orthodontist*, explains in detail some reasons for this appearance.

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Question—Is a uniform setback of laterals advisable in forming the maxillary ideal arch?

Answer—Yes, unless the amount of tooth substance is found to be equal, labio-lingually, in all the maxillary incisors. A cross section of the teeth in the maxillary arch at about the middle of the crowns shows the labio-lingual diameter of each lateral incisor to be much less than that of the central incisor or the cuspid. If a bend is not made lingually in the archwire to take care of this anatomical difference, the relatively thinner lateral incisor crowns will be drawn too far labially, giving the unpleasant appearance mentioned in the preceding question. When the lingual surfaces of the maxillary incisors occlude with the labial surfaces of the mandibular incisors, the labial surfaces of the maxillary lateral incisors will normally be slightly lingual to the labial surfaces of the central incisors and cuspids.