

Letters

"Wits" appraisal in Southern Chinese children a useful addition to literature

With the large influx of Asian peoples into the North American population, it has become particularly appropriate to augment the cephalometric standards used in orthodontics. The article on "Wit's" appraisal in southern Chinese children (*Angle Orthod.*, 60:43-48, 1990) is a useful addition to the literature.

The authors are to be commended for their attempt to further clarify the use of the functional occlusal plane as an appropriate reference plane for cephalometric evaluation. Harvold, in 1962 and 1963, showed that many malocclusions which appear to be skeletal in origin are in reality environmental imitations of what was once thought to be a skeletal problem. The true nature of such malocclusions had been camouflaged either by a downward and backward rotation of the mandible or forward rotations to produce excess lower anterior face height and overclosure. The use of cephalometric analysis

based on the functional occlusal plane will clearly identify such problems. The authors recognize this concept and have made a useful addition to the literature on this subject.

The article appears to be scientifically and technically accurate and uses an acceptable error study as well as acceptable methods for measuring the functional occlusal plane. It could perhaps have been improved by the inclusion of various correlation analysis and regression studies of the various factors which contribute to the "Wit's" appraisal. Overall, however, the findings that the "Wit's" appraisal values must be modified in order to be applicable to an Asian population provides a useful addition to the literature.

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The good old days

I recently had the opportunity to read the Summer edition (Volume 60, No. 2) of *The Angle Orthodontist* and wanted to compliment you on the provocative editorial, "The good old days — were they really so good?"

I wish every orthodontist would seriously read your editorial and realize the outstanding changes that have occurred in our specialty and in the practice of orthodontics. I continue to tell graduates at the University of the Pacific that if I were practicing today by the standards I was taught in the 1960s, I would be guilty of malpractice.

We have come a long way and the changes have been most rewarding for our patients and fellow practitioners. Thank you for continuing to give us outstanding 'food for thought' and reflection.

—Arthur A. Dugoni,
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